Editor’s choice – September 2013

We are starting to receive a number of papers developed from presentations at the successful ILA Congress held in Brussels in mid-September. I would like to encourage researchers who presented in Brussels to also publish their work in *Leprosy Review*, in order to have the full report in the public domain and therefore easily referenced, and to reach the widest possible audience.

This issue begins with an authoritative examination of the histology of histoid leprosy, an interesting but unusual form of lepromatous leprosy which clinicians need to be aware of. Another aspect of leprosy not widely discussed is the issue of sensory loss on the face, which was looked at in the long-running LOSOL study of ocular leprosy, and is presented here. Turning to a much more well-known complication of leprosy, Premal Das *et al.* present a large and well-documented series of footdrop corrections over a 12 year period, from which valuable lessons are drawn about how to select the appropriate type of surgery for each particular case.

Counselling is widely recognised as playing a potentially important role in leprosy case management, but the skill with which it is delivered is likely to be highly variable, for many reasons. Bense *et al.* show how they have used the Participation Scale to guide and direct their counselling process; this is a significant step in improving holistic patient care. Another important aspect of patient care which has often been neglected is the problem of the adverse effects of MDT, which is reported more diligently from Brazil than elsewhere: Dupnik *et al.* show that anaemia is a significant, and gender-related issue.

Finally, this issue also begins an occasional series of articles reviewing the leprosy situation in various endemic countries. We aim to highlight some of the similarities and differences in the challenges faced, and in the way they are being approached – we start with Nigeria and Colombia. Also focusing on one country is a review by Hugh Cross on the roll-out of prevention of disability (POD) interventions in the integrated programme in Indonesia, an area in which they lead the way.

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