

## BOOK REVIEWS

# CURRENT CONCEPTS IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF PARASITIC AND OTHER TROPICAL DISEASES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Proceedings of 18th SEAMEO-TROPMED Seminar, Kuala Lumpur, 2-5 Aug. 1977

A VERY successful regional seminar covering the above theme was held at the Institute for Medical Research. It was well attended by participants from SEAMEO and other neighbouring countries including Australia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand. Among the eminent scientists from outside this region, who participated, were Professors Beaver, Gilles, Gordon-Smith and Peters. A total of 66 papers were presented and were grouped in the following sessions: Helminthic diseases, Protozoan diseases, Microbial diseases, Nutritional disorders, blood disorders and Free papers. A stimulating keynote address was given by Professor Beaver, titled: "Communication in the Scientific Community". Of the 66 presentations, 41 are represented in full and 25 as abstracts, in the proceedings. The lively and highly pertinent discussion after each presentation is also recorded.

Due to space limitation, it is difficult in this review, to give the full titles and the names of all the authors, much less an abstract or critical review of each paper. A brief title is given and if there are more than 2 authors, the name of only the first author is given.

### HELMINTHIC DISEASES

The session on Helminthic Diseases included the largest numbers of papers, e.g. 21; 9 on filariasis, 4 on drug trials of intestinal helminths, 3 on schistosomiasis and 5 other papers. Of the papers on filariasis, 5 deal with survey and control programmes; 1 in Province Wellesley, Peninsular Malaysia (Chee); the second in Java, Indonesia (Mahfudin *et al.*); the third in South Sulawesi, Indonesia (Partono & Borahima); the fourth, a 16 year control programme in Thailand (Harinasuta & Smithasari) and the fifth, a trial of a DEC medicated salt in Taiwan (Fan *et al.*). The other 4

papers in filariasis are diagnostic in nature, two dealing with serological diagnostic techniques, the ELISA test (Kwa & Smyth) and the IFA technique (Ponnudurai); one differentiating the microfilariae of *B. malayi* from that of *B. pahangi* (Sucharit & Harinasuta); and the other comparing the thick smear with the nucleopore technique (Idris & Partono).

Clinical trials were reported, using Mebendazole against hookworm (Migasena *et al.*); against whipworm and hookworm (Bunnag *et al.*) and against *Taenia saginata* (Cabrera). A comparative trial using Oxantel/Pyrantel and Mebendazole was made against polyparasitic helminthic infections (Dissanaike).

Of the three papers on Schistosomiasis, one is a world-wide review (Gilles); the second on diagnosis (Sornmani & Vivathanseth); and the third, a drug trial using Ambihar against *S. japonicum* infection (Blas *et al.*).

Other papers in this session include a rural survey of soil-transmitted helminths (O'Holohan), a review of visceral larval migrans (Beaver); the value of radiology in the diagnosis of *Ascaris* infection (Singh); vaccination against taeniasis — cysticercosis in rats (Kwa & Liew); and a note on operculated eggs in stool (Vajrasthira).

### PROTOZOA

In this section, 9 papers were presented on malaria and 4 on amoebiasis. The first paper (Peters) was a current review of drug treatment and the problems associated with it. Two papers dealt with field trials of drugs against chloroquine resistant *P. falciparum*; the first, a trial in Malaysia (Ponnampalam) using Doxycycline and the other in Thailand (Doberstyn *et al.*) using Mefloquine. The latter drug, a 4-quinoline

methanol, shows promising results. There are two papers on the *in vitro* response of *P. falciparum* to anti-malarial drugs like chloroquine and quinine (Teerakiartkamjorn *et al.*) and to these two drugs plus amodiaquine (Sucharit & Eam-Sobhana). The sporonticidal effect of fansidar was tested in relation to quine and quinine pyrimethamine, and an increased viable gametocyte production was reported (Andre & Doberstyn), an important epidemiological consideration in areas where fansidar is used extensively. The other malaria papers included a presentation on the peripheral lymphocyte populations of Thai malaria patients (Wells *et al.*); a report on malaria in Malaysian army personnel (Natarajan & Singh) and a 15 year review of malaria research at the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory, Bangkok (Segal).

The presentations on amoebiasis were on drug trials, two of these using Timidazole, one against liver abscess (Kundu *et al.*) and the other against intestinal amoebiasis (Swami *et al.*). The third trial (Adjung *et al.*) used Tiberac against intestinal amoebiasis and the last, a short treatment with Ornidazole against both intestinal and liver abscesses (Lasserre).

#### **MICROBIAL DISEASES**

This session contains 11 presentations on the following infections: 3 fungal, 3 bacterial, 2 rickettsial and 3 viral. The presentations on the fungal and bacterial infections mostly pertain to the diagnosis, clinical pattern and treatment of the following: Chromomycosis (Kutty), *Cryptococcus meningitis* (Alora), vaginal candidiasis (Sjarifuddin *et al.*), typhoid fever (Zulkarnain), *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* resistance (Punsalang) and *Mycobacterium ulcerans* (Pettit). The papers on viruses include one on diagnosis (Gordon-Smith) and two on hepatitis B. virus infections, one concerning the incidence in Bangkok (Scott *et al.*) and the other on serological tests (Snitbhan *et al.*). Of the two papers on the Rickettsia, one pertains to the diagnosis of scrub typhus (Coolbaugh) and the other an immunological study on *rickettsia sennetsu* (Tachibana *et al.*).

#### **NUTRITIONAL DISORDERS**

There are 5 papers in this section and include: malnutrition and the immune response (Suskind); serum protein fractions (Migasena & Schelp); proteinase inhibitors (Schelp & Migasena); protein calorie malnutrition (Balakrishnan) and hypovitaminosis A (Ng) the latter two reports from Malaysia.

#### **BLOOD DISORDERS**

The 5 papers in this session deal with: rarer tropical anaemias (Gunz); serum immunoglobulins (Yadav *et al.*); anti DNA activity in the diagnosis of immune complex disorders (Lopez *et al.*); lymphocyte transformation studies in leprosy (Smelt & Liew); and the house-dust mite and rhinitis (Tan & Thomas).

#### **FREE PAPERS**

This section contains 11 papers on a wide assortment of subjects to include: growth and development during the first three years of life (Guzman *et al.*); diphtheria and tetanus antitoxin levels in Thai children (Petchelai *et al.*); integrated family planning and parasitic control (Harinasuta & Sornmani); chemotherapy in viral infections (Lao *et al.*); the ELISA test (Cross & Chi); enteric fever (Singh); cobra bites (Sarvanathan); serological diagnosis of febrile illness (Brown *et al.*); toilet facilities and faecal borne disease (Roundy); management of febrile illness (Saunders *et al.*) and neonatal tetanus (Hasbullah & Balakrishnan). The last 6 studies were done in Malaysia.

There is an abundance of up-to-date review and original material within the main theme, which makes this publication a very useful source for research workers and for those interested in the diagnosis and management of parasitic and other tropical diseases. Copies of this publication are available, for US\$8.00, from the Co-ordinator, TROPMED Central Office, SEAMEO-TROPMED Project, 420/6, Rajvithi Road, Bangkok 4, Thailand.

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