

## Announcements...

### International Congress of Dermatology

The XV International Congress of Dermatology will be held from October 16-22, 1977 in Mexico City with scientific programme, social programme and exhibitions : Congress Enrolment - Fees

	Until April 15, 1977	After April 15, 1977
Participants	US \$ 140—00	US \$ 160—00
Accompanying persons	\$ 50—00	\$ 65—00

Payment of the enrolment fee entitles participants to attend the scientific sessions and social activities, and to receive a copy of the congress program and book of abstracts.

All registered participants may present case presentations, free communications, scientific exhibits and films. They may also participate in the Courses and Workshops by completing and returning the corresponding application forms.

Registered accompanying persons may participate in all social events including those especially organized for the ladies.

#### Early enrolment

Persons wishing to attend should complete the enrolment form and return it together with a bank draft, before July 31, 1977 to :

The General Secretariat  
XV Congresso Internacional De Dermatologia  
Avenida Veracruz 93, Mexico 11, D. F. Mexico

Bank draft should be made to the order of : XV Congresso Internacional De Dermatologia.

The General Secretariat will mail a receipt, exchangeable for the Congress documents at the Congress Building beginning Friday, October 14, 1977, 9-00 a. m. to 5 p. m.

#### Last-minute enrolment

Those who have been unable to do so before, may enrol at the Congress Building beginning on October 14, 1977 from 9-00 a. m. to 5-00 p. m.

#### Cancellations

Fees paid will be refunded minus ten percent (10%) on cancellations received by the General Secretariat before August 31, 1977. Fees are not refundable if cancellation notice arrives after due date.

Subsequent issues of this Journal will announce more details. For further information contact : General Secretariat, Avenida Veracruz 93, Mexico 11, D. F. Mexico.

Dear Madam,

Issue No. 5, Vol. 42 of your Journal, containing Dr. Bhutani's editorial "*Mycobacterium Leprae* Captured?" just came to hand.

Paragraph five of the editorial contains an error and illustrates a somewhat artificially produced difficulty in communication. In attributing the statements of Pattyn and Kato to "personal communication," I presume that the writer is "following the rules" of not referencing memos recorded in the Leprosy Scientific Memoranda (LSM). However, the average reader, not being familiar with LSM and its proscription against being referenced, may well assume that there has been direct communication with these authors and has no way of referring back to the original source. Since this source apparently was the LSM, a second reading of Kato's memorandum will show that lumping his statement with Pattyn's conclusion "that the organism isolated by Skinsnes is entirely different from the aetiologic agent of leprosy" is a major error in interpretation since Kato meant quite the contrary. He agreed, as do we, that the many strains of organisms isolated by us, as well as those now isolated by him, do indeed have the characteristics of scrofulaceum group organisms (and thus are scrofulaceum) as noted by Pattyn. His thrust was that *M. Leprae* may indeed belong to the scrofulaceum group of organisms but the fact that cultivated organisms have scrofulaceum characteristics does not mean they are not *M. Leprae*.

The above statements are now supported by several publications in the International Journal of Leprosy, which may be referenced, as follows:

Kato<sup>44</sup> (1976) 385-386; Kato & Ishakue<sup>44</sup> (1976) 435-442; Skinsnes<sup>44</sup> (1976) 491-493.

Ongoing studies in Dr. Kato's and our laboratories are showing significant metabolic and immunologic differences between our cultivated bacilli and standard scrofulacea such as *M. Marianum*.

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OLAF K. SKINSNES, M.D., Ph.D.,

We herein reproduce the letter from the author of the article mentioned above.  
—Editor

Madam,

Dr. Skinsnes is quite right in assuming that the source of personal communications was Leprosy Scientific Memoranda (LSM). He is also correct in thinking that I was 'following the rules' of LSM which enjoin that "each participant in the project agrees on his own behalf and on behalf of any other person with whom he shares the information that the research findings communicated via the LSM will be treated as 'personal communications' from fellow investigators" Need I say more?