

Announcements . . .

(Special programme for research and training in tropical diseases)

A new programme of research for the tools to control diseases in the tropical countries seeks relevant research proposals from scientists in many disciplines.

Methods to control many of the major infectious diseases of the tropics are grossly inadequate and the special programme for research and training in tropical diseases is concerned with six such major public health problems : malaria, schistosomiasis, filariasis (including onchocerciasis or river blindness), trypanosomiasis (both African sleeping sickness and the American form called Chagas' disease), leishmaniasis and leprosy.

Sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO), the programme has two aims :

- ① through research and development, it seeks new and better tools to control the tropical diseases, and
- ② through training and the strengthening of institutions, it promotes self-reliance in research in the affected countries.

Scientific Working Groups are responsible for research and development activities in each disease, and in the areas of epidemiology, biomedical sciences, biological control of vectors and social economic research. Relevant scientific disciplines include molecular and cellular biology, biochemistry, immunology, parasitology, entomology and pharmacology.

Scientists from any country may submit proposals for research grants, which should be in accordance with the priorities and plan of the Scientific Working Groups.

In addition to the research and development of new and improved tools for tropical disease control, the Special Programme seeks to strengthen the research capabilities of the affected countries. Research institutions in these countries may apply for assistance to develop their facilities and for training. Also, several types of training grants are available to individuals from these countries.

Further information, together with research proposal forms may be requested from : Office of the Director, Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, c/o W. H. O., Geneva, Switzerland.