Announcement....

NEXT CONFERENCE

The next Annual Conference of Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists will be held in conjunction with the 29th Joint Annual Conference of the Association of Physicians of India at PATNA (Bihar) in January, 1974. Further details of the conference will be announced later.

The following are the main features of the Scientific Session of the Conference:

I. Seminar — Role or utility of the histopathology in diagnosis of Skin diseases.

II. Symposium — Why VD is not controlled? or Modern approach to control of Leprosy.

III. Scientific Papers.

Those who wish to read papers are requested to write immediately to Dr. T. K. Mehta, Chairman, Scientific Committee, IADVL., 16/1, Forjett Cross Lane, Bombay 400 036, for further information.

PRIZES — Gold medals

Indian Academy of Medical Sciences will award TWO Gold medals during the year 1973—74.

(1) "Dr. Misra Memorial Gold Medal" for the best **unpublished** work in any field of biomedicine by a young (below 35 years) biomedical scientist.

(2) "Sir Shriram Gold Medal" for the best **published** paper during the preceding three years on any Basic Medical Science subjects by biomedical scientists of any age.

Papers should reach the office of the Academy latest by **15th October, 1973.** Further information may be obtained on a self-addressed stamped envelope from the "Executive Director, Indian Academy of Medical Sciences, C-II/16, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110 016."

OBITUARY

Dr. C. W. CHACKO

Dr. C. W. Chacko, Emeritus Scientist of the Indian Council of Medical Research and retired Professor of Serology, Madras Medical College and Serologist, Govt. General Hospital was one among the 48 victims of the illfated Boeing that crashed at New Delhi on 31st May 1973. He was on his way to Burma as a W.H.O. Consultant in Serology.

Dr. C. W. CHACKO

Chacko Wallapura Chacko was born on 17th February, 1912. He qualified for MBBS degree at the Madras Medical College, Madras University in 1938, joined the Indian Army as a Commissioned Medical Officer in 1940, and was elevated to the rank of a Lt. Col. After a distinguished career he was released from the army.

He was the recipient of D.T.M. of the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta in 1947. Subsequently he served a couple of years at the King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Guindy, Madras and was fortunate enough to obtain a placement at the world famous Wright-Fleming Institute of Microbiology, London in 1950. He specialised in the discipline of Immunology and Serology in relation to Syphilis. The TPI test for Syphilis was first set up by the late Dr. Chacko at London and in recognition of his outstanding research work, he was awarded the Ph. D. of London University in 1952. He was specially chosen by Dr. R. V. Rajam as the fittest person for the post of Serologist and Professor of Serology at the upgraded Institute of Venereology, Madras and was appointed in February 1953. He retired from Tamilnadu Medical Service on 16th February 1970.

Dr. Chacko organised an up-to-date V. D. laboratory at the Institute. Later a Reference laboratory for standardization of Serological tests for Syphilis in the country was also established and is functioning now. He successfully cultivated the organisms responsible for syphilis in rabbits in a tropical country like India and the same is being maintained for over a period of 20 years. The credit of cultivating yaws spirochaetes isolated from patients and maintained in rabbits goes to late Dr. Chacko. For the diagnosis of Gonorrhoea he along with Mr. Nair evolved a new culture medium known as Chacko-Nair Medium.

He had an extensive and detailed knowledge of Serology, Immunology and Microbiology. He dedicated himself to work and spared no efforts in the organization and maintenance of a high grade quality of serological work ; a good teacher and a top-ranking research officer. He was one of those pioneers in India in Immunology and Serology to whom Venereology is greatly indebted.

His organising capacity and the performance of high quality serological and microbiological work conducted at the Institute of Venereology was recognised al over and especially by the World Health Organization, resulting in the V.D. Laboratory at the Institute of Venereology attaining an international status. In recognition of his meritorious service rendered in this particular field, the W. H. O. was pleased to take him as Consultant for setting up laboratories in other countries.

Dr. Chacko has trained a number of medical and para-medical personnel in the laboratory aspects of Venereology from India as well as from other countries of South East Asia.

He had contributed original articles to various scientific Journals. He was a founder fellow of the Indian Academy of Medical Sciences and a member of various professional and scientific bodies, including Indian Association of Dermatologists and Venereologists. Besides, he was an Adviser and Assessor to the Universities and Union Public Service Commission selections. After retirement he was appointed as Emeritus Scientist by the I.C.M.R. to enable him to continue his research at the Institute of Venereology, Madras.

He was a good sportsman who took active part in the sports and games conducted at the Madras Medical College.

He was of pious and charitable disposition and was connected with many social service activities.

Dr. Chacko is survived by his wife who is a leading Pediatrician in Tamilnadu and three young daughters.

(C.N.S.)

True :

In experiments conducted on mice hairs, by varying the time of irradiation after plucking, resting melanocytes, (irradiated immediately after plucking) dividing melanocytes, (irradiated three days later) and melanocytes initiating melanin synthesis (irradiated 5 days after plucking) were selectively studied. Resting (G_0) melanocytes in the hair follicles were found to be most sensitive to depigmentation due to irradiation damage. The greatest radio resistance was seen in the 5 day melanocyte population. This may be attributed in part to some radioprotection afforded by melanin systhesis.

Ref : J Invest Derm, 55 : 410, 1970.
Brit J Derm, 81 : 289, 1969.