



INTERACADEMY MEDICAL PANEL NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

Health and health issues are now recognized as playing an increasingly important role in all aspects of social, political and economic development by the United Nations and other international organizations. Thus scientists from every region of the world bear a major responsibility with regard to humankind's capacity to improve health for all and resolve the many issues linked to sustainable development.

The health of all children, and particularly that of children in the developing world, is the cornerstone for the fulfilment of the world's development expectations.

It is for this reason that we, as members of a community that deals directly with all aspects of health, from the cutting edge of research to the application of that research, must be constantly aware that a great responsibility lies in our hands.

At its creation in Tokyo in 2000, the InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP) resolved to facilitate communication and encourage collaboration between academies of medicine and medical sciences and the relevant section of other academies of science. These avenues of communication will enable us to fulfil our goal to improve human health and the human condition around the world, but especially in developing countries. IAMP intends to continue to work to establish and nurture channels of communication between members and health professionals in the field. The establishment of the permanent secretariat in Trieste, with the support of the Italian authorities and the InterAcademy Panel on International Issues (IAP) provides us with an opportunity to further develop our organization.

As we set out on this new phase in the life of IAMP, it is our hope that the aspirations that led to the creation of this organization will continue to be held high by our colleagues as we are convinced that our goals and objectives are not only relevant to millions of people around the globe, but are actually attainable.

Guy de Thé
David Challoner

IAMP Programmes

The InterAcademy Mother-Child Health Research Network

Background

The Mother-Child Health Research Network was originally established as a programme of the InterAcademy Panel on International issues (IAP) by the French and Swedish academies of sciences, later joined by the Royal Society of Canada. A series of workshops have been organized by the network focusing on such issues as mother to child transmission of HIV and alternatives to breast feeding for HIV infected Mothers.

A website was also developed to facilitate interaction and to promote collaboration between scientists and clinicians in developing and industrialized countries by sharing their experiences, exchanging data and debating issues of common interest. The site was recently reviewed to make it more user-friendly and is now being tested for launch in November 2004.

In March 2004, the IAMP executive committee (EC) received and

approved a proposal to co-sponsor the Mother-Child Health Research Network as a means of promoting health research in developing countries, a critical factor for both health and sustainable economic development.

To date

In early April 2004, a workshop held at the *Fondation des Treilles*, Paris, recommended the creation of an ad hoc executive committee of the Mother-Child Health Research Network to review on-going activities and to promote new activities and the further involvement of academies and other concerned scientific groups to implement fund raising activities and improve the structure of the network. Subsequently, on 25 August, 2004, a meeting took place at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and a shortlist was created of possible components of the network executive committee, including representatives of the academies most involved in the network and, where possible, female colleagues from the developing world.

The African Academy of Science (AAS) met in association with the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) in Abuja, Nigeria, from 19-23 September 2004. I attended as a guest representing the US Institute of Medicine and as co-chair of the IAMP executive committee. The scientific programme focused on the basic, clinical and public health issues of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa, and the meeting provided an opportunity for many African scientists and clinicians to communicate and coordinate their activities across national boundaries. The Ministers of Science and Health of Nigeria were active participants in the programme and provided generous financial support.

I had the opportunity to explain the structure and goals of IAMP and delegates from several African science academies that are not yet members of IAMP indicated their intention to join the organization in the near future. There were delegates from Cameroon, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda, and international guests from France (Yves Quéré representing IAP), Tunisia and the United States. The warm cordiality was welcome and created the opportunity for further growth of the African science academies as well as IAMP.

David Challoner

From the Secretariat

For your information please find below a complete list of IAMP member academies.

Meet our Members

Academia Nacional de Medicina de Buenos Aires
Academy of Medical Sciences of Armenia
National Academy of Sciences of Armenia
Australian Academy of Science
Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine
Academia Boliviana de Medicina
Academia Nacional de Medicina, Brasile
Brazilian Academy of Sciences
Academia Chilena de Medicina
Chinese Academy of Engineering
Chinese Academy of Sciences
Academia Nacional de Medicina de Colombia
Croatian Academy of Medical Sciences
Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts
Cuban Academy of Sciences
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Academy of Scientific Research & Technology, Egypt
Delegation of the Finnish Acad. of Science & Letters
Académie de Medicine, France
Académie des Sciences, France
Radiation Medicine Research Group & WHO
Collaborating Centre for Radiation Accidents
Union of German Academy of Sciences & Humanities
Academy of Athens
Hungarian Academy of Sciences
National Academy of Medical Sciences, India
Indian National Science Academy
Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Italy
Third World Academy of Sciences
Science Council of Japan
Kenya Medical Association
African Academy of Sciences
National Academy of Sciences, Rep. Korea
Latvian Academy of Sciences
Lithuanian Academy of Sciences
Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts
University of Malawi
Academy of Sciences Malaysia
National Academy of Medicine of Mexico
Mongolian Academy of Sciences
Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts & Sciences
Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters
Palestine Academy for Science & Technology
National Academy of Science & Technology, Philippines
Polish Academy of Sciences
Caribbean Academy of Sciences
Russian Academy of Medical Sciences
Académie des Sciences & Techniques du Sénégal
Slovak Medical University
Slovak Academy of Science
Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts
Medical Research Council of South Africa
Academy of Science of South Africa
Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences
Turkish Academy of Sciences
Academy of Medical Sciences, UK
Institute of Medicine, USA

Contact details for all IAMP members are available from the Secretariat iamp@twas.org

DCPP Project

Background

The Disease Control Priorities Project (DCPP) is a three-year effort launched in September 2002 to assess disease control priorities and produce science-based analyses and resource materials to inform health policymakers in developing countries. It is a joint project of the Fogarty International Center (FIC) of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank and is funded by a US\$3.5 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

In 1993, the World Bank published the first edition of *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries*, which examined the priority of 25 conditions based on their public health significance and the cost-effectiveness of preventive and patient management interventions in developing countries.

The document was a companion to the World Bank's 1993 World Development Report: *Investing in Health*. Both documents have since become reference works and continue to be used extensively by policymakers, international development agencies and academic institutions. In 2004, the new DCPP will publish an expanded second edition of *Disease Control Priorities*

in *Developing Countries*.

IAMP has taken on several tasks with respect to the DCPP

- Reviewing the content and author participation in the overall project
- Providing selective reviews of chapters and working papers
- Critically discussing the main findings and important milestones
- Identifying two independent reviewers for each of the 80 individual chapters and securing their agreement to provide in-depth assessments of specific chapters.

In January 2003, IAMP co-chairs invited IAMP members to nominate peer reviewers for individual chapters, the only condition being that the nominees be experts in the subject assigned. The reviews produced will be used by the editors of the DCPP.

Since then the number of chapters has been reduced to 76 so that the number of reviewers required is now 152 – all of whom have been identified.

During the IAMP executive committee meeting that was held in Paris, France, in March 2005, the DCPP was selected as the primary focus for the IAMP's next global meeting.

NEWS

The next IAMP executive committee meeting will be held on 1 December 2004 in Paris, France. Invitations to EC members are being sent out by Leslie Baer.

Lbaer@nas.edu

The IAMP secretariat is hosted by the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in Trieste, Italy. Recently, TWAS and the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) issued a joint statement on HIV/AIDS

www.twas.org

The Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) organized a summit on the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa with over 100 African scientists in attendance. The meeting, held in Abuja, Nigeria on September 19-23, was attended by Patrick Kelley, Director, Board on Global Health, Institute of Medicine, and IAMP co-chair, David Challoner

MEETINGS

The Retrovirus Assembly Meet.
Prague, Czech Republic.
October 2004.

I. Pichová (+ 420) 220 183 250
www.cas.cz/index.html.en (international meetings)

Workshop on «Clinical Research & Cooperation with Developing Countries», Process of Research Partnership and Impact on Health Development. 28-30 April 2005, Wildt'sches Haus, Basle. Info from Dec. 2004 on www.samw.ch

AWARDS

IAMP co-chair Guy de Thé, member of the French Academy of Sciences, the French Academy of Medicine and Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences, was elected a foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) at CAS's 12th General Assembly held in June in Beijing.

Secretariat

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