

## TWO NEW INSTITUTES

### EDITORIAL

The actions towards the control of Hansen's disease in Brazil have been increasing steadily in the last years. This is due to the organization of health services in various regions of the country and to the settlement of reference centers for training health personnel and to the development of field and laboratory research. A result of this policy was the change to Institutes of two of the most leading centers for training and research in Brazil, the Institute "Lauro de Souza Lima" in Bauru and the Institute for Tropical Dermatology and Venerology "Alfredo da Mata" in Manaus.

The Institute "Lauro de Souza Lima" has its origin in the foundation of the Aymores Colony in april 1933 in Bauru, São Paulo. It was a model to be followed at that time. With the evolution of the policy for Hansen's disease control it became a sanatorium in the early 1960, and later in 1966 it was designated as a Dermatology Hospital due to the fact that it started to treat other dermatosis than hanseniasis. In the 1969's decade it was already known by its contribution to research in therapeutics and training in HD. In the 1970's named Hospital "Lauro de Souza Lima" after the great brazilian hansenologist, the institution was used to receive circa one thousand trainees each year and to offer four annual courses on hansenology, prevention of deformity and rehabilitation. Its scientific productions have been presented in national

and international conferences and many papers were published in brazilian and international medical journals. In 1980 it was appointed by WHO as Reference Training Center in HD for Portuguese speaking countries followed in 1984 by the National Health Ministry with similar purposes. The work developed in the hospital in the field of training, research and production of supplies such as Lepromin and other antigens, commended it as a true and comprehensive scientific institution and, finally, in October 1989 it was officially recognized as such.

In Manaus, the capital of Amazonia and a region of high prevalence of HD, there was in 1951 a small clinic for screening patients. Dr. Celio Motta, at that time Director of the Economic Development Superintendence for Amazonia (SPENEA), obtained financial support for the creation of a dispensary that received the name of Alfredo da Mata, an outstanding scientist that studied local endemies such as HD, leishmaniasis and pinta. Soon, the dispensary started to deal with other dermatosis and in 1976 become an Ambulatory of Dermatology and later in 1982 a Center for Tropical Dermatology and Venerology. This Center was in charge of the HD control programm for the Amazonia region, promoted courses for training health personnel and developed a wide range of research in the field of tropical dermatology,

mainly in HD. All this activities lead to the official appointment of the Center as an Institute in December 1988.

These two Institutes, with their enourmous potential, are able to expressively contribute to the eradication of many dermatological diseases that afflict our people. To meet this goal they should work together, exchanging

OPROMOLLA, D.V.A. Tve new Institutes

experiences, informations, trainees and conducting multicentric researches, preventing unnecessary and even harmful duplication of efforts towards the same goal, since they represent regions with marked differences and thus, their activities should bem complementary.

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