

Leprosy Research and ILEP

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Research in Leprosy

- Importance of research in leprosy
- What are the ILEP members doing vis a vis research?
- How might the ILEP TC interface with ILEP members over research?

Is research in leprosy still needed ?

- Basic
 - Molecular tools to detect drug resistance to Rifampicin
 - Understanding immunity to *M. leprae* so that diagnostic tests can be developed
- Applied
 - What tests do we need to detect early nerve damage?
 - Which immunosuppressive drugs are best for controlling ENL

Is research in leprosy still needed ?

- Operational
 - Is there under diagnosis of leprosy in the integrated setting
 - Are patients receiving steroids appropriately
 - Do patients practice self care?
 - How effective are health education programmes
- Research should be used to improve the quality and effectiveness of leprosy services
- Research is cross-cutting and involves many players

Research methodologies

- Asking questions
- Designing studies
 - Correct type of patients
 - Right question/ appropriate data
 - Intervention
- Analysis
- Dissemination of findings
- Implementation of findings

Role of ILEP Members vis a vis Research

- Support
 - Local through programmes
 - National/International through collaborations
- Implementation of findings
- Training workers
 - to use and implement research findings
- Evaluation of research
 - ILEP funded workshop
- Promoting meetings and the development of networks
 - NLR Neuropathy workshop June 2007

Role of ILEP Members vis a vis Research 2

- Funding projects
 - Overall spending by ILEP members is 3.3 million euros
 - 2002 5.1%, 2006 5.7%
 - % of budget 0-18 % 2002; 0-28 % 2006
 - Spending above 10% ALM, Lepra, SJ
- INFIR (2000-03)
 - Major outputs; publications, presentations, training
- Strategic planning by ILEP members
 - NLR and GLRA policies

ILEP TC and Research

- Identify new important research findings
- Implementation
- Examining evidence
 - ILEP Technical report June 2002 (Lep Rev)
- Identify areas for research
- Promote quality research
- Look at research proposals

Research recommendations already in public domain

- IDEAL
 - New T cell based diagnostic tests
 - Using molecular tools to understand transmission
 - Both involve considerable development work
 - Funding stopped after initial support

Research recommendations already in public domain

- **Neuropathy workshop June 2007**
 - Diagnosing neuropathy
 - Better treatments
 - Pathogenesis
 - Lep Rev Dec 2007
- **Pre-Congress workshops**
 - Neuropathy and Reactions
 - Chemotherapy
 - Molecular tools
 - Stigma
 - Research
 - Lep Rev June 2008

Conclusions

- Large unmet research need
- Important research questions at every level
- Investment is critical
- Most effective ways of funding and implementing research