

# Highlights in the History of Chemoprophylaxis of Leprosy

## Chemoprophylaxis trials :

Dharmendra, 1965, India  
Lew, 1968, Korea  
Lew, 1968, Korea  
Noordeen, 1969, India  
Wardekar, 1969, India  
Otyula, 1971, Uganda  
Sloan, 1972, Micronesia  
Noordeen, 1976, India  
Noordeen, 1977, India  
Lara, 1978, The Philippines  
Lara, 1978, The Philippines  
Neelan, 1986, India  
Cartel, 1992, French Polynesia  
Dayal, 1995, India  
Blanc, 1999, Micronesia, Kiribati and Marshall



## Islands

Bakker, 2005, Indonesia  
Moet, 2008, Bangladesh  
Vijayakumaran, India (unpublished)



Types of trials : randomized controlled trials  
non-randomized controlled trials  
non-controlled trials

Target populations : household contacts  
extended contacts  
school children  
total (young)  
population

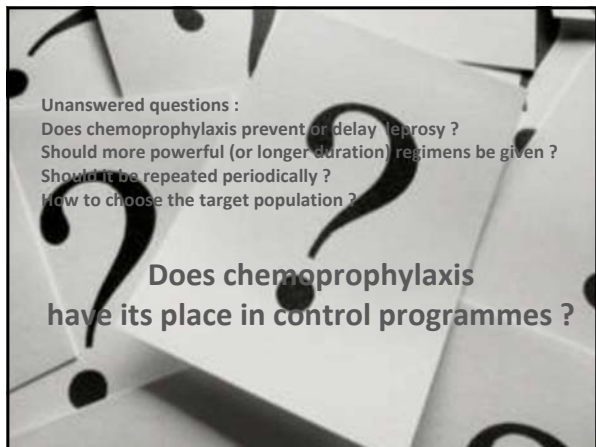
Interventions : Dapsone  
Acedapsone  
Rifampicine  
R-O-M

Size of the population : from 166 to 40,000



## Lessons learned :

- ✓ Chemoprophylaxis is effective in preventing leprosy
- ✓ Overall protection : around 60 %  
could be higher for total population
- ✓ Problems with dapsone/acedapsone :  
duration of treatment  
resistance
- ✓ Impact limited if given to household contacts only
- ✓ Effect seems to wane over time



## Unanswered questions :

Does chemoprophylaxis prevent or delay leprosy ?  
Should more powerful (or longer duration) regimens be given ?  
Should it be repeated periodically ?  
How to choose the target population ?

## Does chemoprophylaxis have its place in control programmes ?