

LANCASTER AND WESTMORLAND MEDICAL JOURNAL

The Lancaster and Westmorland Medical Journal is an extension of the local programme of postgraduate education. Its aims are to further medical education, improve clinical practice and foster medical research in the area served by the Lancaster and Kendal hospitals. The journal publishes articles which are of specific relevance to the locality. A wide range of subjects is covered including clinical practice, organisation of services, disease prevention, research, management and medical history. Well documented case reports are also considered for publication. The journal welcomes correspondence on matters of current interest as well as commentary on previous articles. Additional features include a news section, a quiz, a list of library acquisitions and the postgraduate diary.

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The journal is produced three times a year and is sent free of charge to every medical practitioner in the area served by the Lancaster and Kendal hospitals. The cost of publication and distribution is borne in part by Lancaster Health Authority and in part by sponsorship, subscription and advertising revenue. A list of sponsors appears on the inside back cover. The cost of subscription is £30 per annum.

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ISSN 0957-5286

Typeset and Design by Drummond Typesetters Ltd., Kent Works, Burnside Road, Kendal, Cumbria.

Printed and bound by Dixon Printing, Kendal, Cumbria.

EDITORIAL

In the next twenty years the fruits of biomedical research will give an unprecedented insight into the pathogenesis of disease. This is mainly due to the rapid pace of progress in molecular biology. This period will be the golden age of medical understanding. At the end of it we shall have a clear view of the causes of common medical problems and the mechanisms by which they arise. It does not necessarily follow, of course, that understanding will lead to effective prevention or better treatment but most workers are optimistic that it will.

This period will be a very interesting and exciting time in which to practise medicine and we are all privileged to be part of it. Interesting and exiting, that is, as long as we avoid being engrossed in administration, management, fundholding and finance, and instead concentrate on the science that underpins our work. In view of this it is timely that there are moves to establish the Lancashire and

Lakeland Medical Research Trust. This body will raise funds to support cooperative research between health service professionals and university scientists. It will enable those of us working in this area to contribute to the research effort and to participate in these exciting developments. It will also be a focus for the translation of progress in basic science into health service practice.

In this issue there is a section in 'News & Notes' on recent plans for the research trust and there is an article in the main body of the journal on one of the research programmes that the trust will support. An important part of the recent plan is a scheme to encourage health service professionals to do research part time for an M Phil degree conferred by Lancaster University. This will broaden participation and help to spread a research culture within the NHS.

J. A. MORRIS Editor

CONTENTS

Clinical Topics	262	The Management of Idiopathic Parkinson's Disease. Isabel M Huggett
	267	Drug Treatment of Heart Failure. AK Brown
Microbiology	270	Ovine Enzootic Abortion. P Morgan-Capner & Anita Sanghi
Research	274	Molecular Mimicry in Autoimmune Disease. JA Morris
Case Report	276	Extradural Pyogenic Granuloma Masquerading as an Acute Transverse Myelitis. HC Parekh, R Sharma, S Prabhu, CH Davis
Management	279	Lancaster Priority Services NHS Trust: Aims and Challenges. DA Jordison
Public Health	281	Public Health Statistics - 1991. RN Gent, M Guy, H Lowson
News & Notes	284	New Appointments Lancaster and Lakeland Medical Research Trust
	285	Liaison between Lancaster Acute Hospitals NHS Trust & General Practitioners Postgraduate Centre Library Orders
Postgraduate Programme	287	