

Editor's Choice – March 2019

Several significant changes have taken place at *Leprosy Review* in the last few months.

Irene Allen, who has served as Editorial Assistant since the 1980s, has now retired, as of December, 2018. Many authors and readers will have had correspondence with her over the years, and all of them remark on her gracious responses and willingness to help with any problem. We will miss her, but wish her well in her retirement.



It is becoming clear that a number of other changes are needed at the Journal, including an update to the website and the online presence of *Leprosy Review*. The use of PDF files which are easy to read on a computer is now outdated, so a format easily read on a smartphone is now essential for today's readers. Further improvements in the online submission process are also needed, as well as clearer statement about the Journal's aims, scope and policies.

This issue of *Leprosy Review* begins with an important paper on research priorities for leprosy, developed by the Leprosy Research Initiative, which is an ILEP supported fund for research. There is perhaps an upswing in the availability of funds for leprosy research, as well as increased interest in new ideas about the prevention of leprosy, which all make this a timely paper. One method of prevention is so-called post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), and this is examined in the second paper from the point of view of the recipients – is this an acceptable intervention?

A paper from Wuhan, China, gives the epidemiological history of leprosy there since the 1950s. This make very interesting reading in the light of current thinking about how to 'end' leprosy and how to monitor progress towards 'ending' leprosy.

There are papers on histopathology, ENL and self-care, and then several papers on social aspects of leprosy. The paper on entitlement schemes fits in very well with the Case Report on APAL in India, a patient organization which has been very active in advancing the rights of people affected, including access to those very same entitlement schemes. While the fine details may not be very relevant to readers outside India, it is interesting to see the progress that has been made there in just a few decades, which is a challenge to readers in other countries.

Finally, to return to the theme of 'ending' leprosy, a paper by van 't Noordende *et al.* continues the discussion about making an investment case for eliminating leprosy, an advocacy tool which will be essential to attract additional funding.

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Editor