Editor's Choice – March 2021

The year begins with some hope that life will gradually return to normal over the coming months. A major issue for leprosy programs is dealing with the backlog of undiagnosed cases, as illustrated in the letters from India and Nepal. We welcome reports of renewed case-finding activities that deal effectively with this backlog.

While global figures show a gradually declining trend in case detection, individual localities may present very unusual characteristics, as is the case in two highly endemic villages in Senegal, as reported by Kasang *et al.* Two papers on delay in detection illustrate the fact that this is still a major challenge on the road to zero leprosy. Delayed detection is one of the main drivers of complications in leprosy, some of which are described in the next few papers—on pure neural leprosy, the assessment of disability in Brazil and mental well-being.

Finally, two short reports from the leprosy centre at Karigiri in south India illustrate potential next steps in the effort to prevent plantar ulceration. Providing customized footwear for people with impairments of the foot, which are prone to ulceration, could be enhanced by individualized insoles and also by training people to use a less damaging walking pattern, through a feedback mechanism which gives an alert when high plantar pressures occur.

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