



NEWSLETTER

OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER PAHO/WHO STAFF MEMBERS

VOLUME VIII NO. 1

SPRING 1998

1998 OFFICERS

The Board of Directors, having determined that all those who had held office during 1997 were willing to serve again in 1998, unanimously reelected the slate, as follows:

Jaime Ayalde	President
Hans Bruch	Vice President
Jean Surgi	Secretary
Renate Plaut	Treasurer
Flora Early	Asst. Secretary
Hortensia Saginor	Social Chairman
Carlos Garcia	Member-at-Large
Frank Gauldfeldt	Member-at-Large
Juana Palma	Member-at-Large

During 1998, the Board will review the functions currently being performed by various officers and members-at-large of the Board with a view to adding other areas which are not presently included, distributing tasks more equitably, and involving other AFSM members in Board activities on an ad hoc basis.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Hans Bruch, Coordinator
Frank Gauldfeldt
Renate Plaut
Jean Surgi
Jaime Ayalde, *ex officio*

AFSM SPRING LUNCHEON

The AFSM spring luncheon will be held on Tuesday, 19 May, and the speaker will be Dr. Martha Peláez, PAHO Regional Advisor on Aging and Health. Her talk, entitled "What is Successful Aging," will include a discussion of UN plans for the International Year of Older Persons (1999).

AFSM is co-sponsoring this lunch with the Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS) and with the Retirees' Association of the Inter-American Development Bank, where the luncheon will be held.

Members will receive further details as soon as they are available, but please save the date on your calendar for this event!

DR. GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND NOMINATED FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF WHO

The 101st Session of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization passed a resolution nominating Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland for the post of Director-General of the World Health Organization, in accordance with article 31 of the WHO Constitution. This nomination will be submitted to the Fifty-first World Health Assembly, which will meet in Geneva 11-15 May 1998. The new Director-General will take office 21 July 1998.

Dr. Brundtland was born on 20 April 1939 in Oslo, Norway. She received the M.D. degree from the University of Oslo in 1963 and the degree of Master of Public Health from Harvard in 1965.

From 1965 to 1967, Dr. Brundtland served as Medical Officer at the Norwegian Directorate of Health. From 1968 to 1974, she was Assistant Medical Director at the Oslo Board of Health, Department of School Services. In 1974, she was appointed Minister of Environmental Health, a position she held for five years. Appointed Prime Minister for the first time in 1981, she held this post three times, the latest from 1990 to October 1996. Altogether, she was Head of Government for more than 10 years.

Among her many international positions, Dr. Brundtland chaired (starting in 1983) the World Commission on Environment and Development, which coined the concept of "sustainable development" and made recommendations leading to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. She is married, mother of four, and grandmother of seven.

WHO Press Office, Press Release WHO/15, January 1998. For more information on WHO, see the Internet at <http://www/who.org>.

STAFF AWARDS CEREMONY

The 1998 Staff Awards Ceremony was held on Wednesday, 8 April, at Headquarters. Honorees included the following:

- Those who had completed 10, 15, 25, 30, and 35 (Roxana Martin and Meche Vargas) years of service.
- Those who had achieved superior performance on the United Nations Language Proficiency Examination.
- Those who had achieved an education goal, such as receiving a college degree.

- Those selected for making a meritorious contribution to the work of PAHO.

In addition, special recognition was made of the following programs: Office of External Relations, the PWR Office in Suriname, and BIREME; and of the following managers and supervisors: Henry M. Jouval, Jr., Merlín Fernández, and Franklin White. The Director's Award was presented to Janice Barahona and to Roger Dixon.

WASHINGTON WALK FOR HEALTH

PAHO sponsored the Second Washington Walk for Health on Sunday, 26 April, at 10:00 a.m., starting at Headquarters.

Many retirees participated in the first such walk last year, and it was hoped that even more would take part this year, either as a walker or as a member of the planning committee. José Romero Teruel (a member of AFSM) suggested the idea of a Walk for Health last year and again collaborated with DPI in coordinating this year's event.

According to Dr. Teruel, "The health day should be commemorated in a more enthusiastic way than just a ceremony in Room A. If we believe in the importance of health, we should demonstrate this in explicit ways. Many groups sponsor events on specific problems; PAHO is emphasizing HEALTH.

"This is an opportunity to go out into the Washington area and demonstrate what we do inside our headquarters. Embassies, banks, and government agencies are invited to participate. It is expected that this will be a good time, with many people visiting our headquarters and walking in beautiful downtown parks. This is an activity for all staff—technical, supporting, and retired, plus families and friends.

"Any funds raised will help to provide transportation of used medical equipment to

clinics in developing areas of our countries. This is done in coordination with Global Links, a nongovernmental organization with which PAHO has been working for eight years to send millions of dollars' worth of equipment to several countries."

Dr. Teruel noted that WHO is developing something similar to celebrate the Day of the Elderly on 1 October and suggests that AFSM might want to organize an annual event for this purpose.

THE EFFECT ON EX-SPOUSES OF SEPARATION AND DIVORCE

A question frequently asked by former staff is the effect on health insurance and pension benefits for a spouse if the marriage is altered by either legal separation or divorce. *Quarterly News* asked the relevant authorities for their answers.

The key point to remember is that both entitlements are based on the marital relationship existing at the time of leaving WHO. For coverage under the WHO staff health insurance system, the staff member must have been a participant—with his or her family—before leaving the Organization and then the choice may be made to continue the coverage after departure.

In the event of later legal separation or divorce, the ex-spouse can request to remain covered so long as the contributions are paid annually. If the request is approved, the ex-spouse can remain covered indefinitely, even if the former staff member remarries or dies. However, if the former staff member remarries, the new spouse cannot become covered by the staff health insurance system.

For specific information about individual cases, please contact Mrs. Ann Van Hulle-Colbert, Head, Staff Health Insurance,

WHO, Geneva (TP+41 22 791 2339; FX+41 22 791 4185; e-mail <vanhullcolbert@who.ch>).

Separation or divorce have different effects on pension entitlements of the ex-spouse: in the event of legal separation, the right of the spouse to the survivor's benefit remains. With divorce, however, the ex-spouse loses the survivor's benefit. In addition, if the former staff member remarries, the new spouse will not become eligible for a survivor's benefit; the entitlement is lost to all parties. For specific information about pension benefits, please contact Chief, Pensions, WHO(TP+41 22 791 2270; FX+41 22 791 4184).

The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF), which administers the common system pension benefits, has revised, effective 1 August 1997, the administrative rule that seeks to assist ex-spouses of staff members and former staff members in regard to lawsuits—but AR B.4 has no effect on the conditions described above. As a participant of the pension fund, if you have not received a copy of the revised administrative rule in English, French, or Spanish contained in a letter from the Secretary, UNJSPF, dated 25 July 1997, please contact the Secretary, UNSJPF, c/o Palais des Nations, Room 300-16, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, or the Secretary, UNJSPF, United Nations, NY 10017, USA.

Quarterly News, Association of Former WHO Staff, Summer-Autumn, No. 30-31, 1997

REMEMBER!

ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

Tuesday, 19 May 1998

SAVE THIS DATE!

PERSONAL CORNER

Samuel Z. K. Pillai (Olney MD)

The other day when I returned from India, I found in my mail a copy of "Directory of Former PAHO/WHO Staff as of 1 March 1997," and when I saw the names of those with whom or under whom I had worked during my tenure with PAHO, I had an urge to share with them a little bit of what I've been doing since my retirement in 1988.

As some of you know, I've always wanted to return to my home country and run a social service project, particularly in the health field. So, with some of the lump-sum money I received when I retired, I purchased a piece of property in Hosur, near Bangalore in South India, and started a small primary health care (PHC) clinic with the help of a doctor couple who were willing to work for the village people of that area.

It soon became apparent that one of the tragic problems of that area was the abandonment of unwanted babies, mostly females, because of poverty or ignorance. To provide a haven for these babies, we started a Children's Home in 1990 with two infants—a three-month-old girl whose mother was just too poor to care for her, and a skin-and-bone baby boy who was found thrown away in a building, covered with ants and at the point of death. Since then, we have taken in more than 25 such children, some of them severely disabled.

All the projects are continuing to serve the rural communities there—mostly with contributions from well-wishers. In order to channel these funds in an organized way, Community Uplift Projects (CUP) International, a not-for-profit tax-exempt organization was established here in Maryland. To keep the projects operating from year to year, we continue to depend on donations; no matter how small, these will always be gratefully accepted. Thank you very much.

* * * * *

Editorial Note (based on several progress reports of CUP International): In Hosur, CUP International is operated by Anantha Ashram, a registered charitable trust that has the general objective of serving the physical, social, and spiritual needs of rural communities in India. The trust has come a long way since Sam founded and registered it in 1989. New, more diversified projects have been added, to serve an ever-increasing number of people in and around the villages.

Primary health care is provided at the Base Health Center and through the Community Health Program comprising mobile clinics and health education activities. The newest building of the project, the spacious Community Health Center, which houses all the diagnostic services, was inaugurated in January 1997. This was followed by a renovation of the two older buildings to accommodate 18 inpatient beds, more private rooms, a larger labor and delivery room, and living quarters for more resident staff.

In addition, there are two treatment rooms including an emergency room, an incubator for premature babies, one operating theater, three doctor's consultation rooms, and rooms for a modern medical laboratory, X-ray, ECG, and a pharmacy, plus a large hall for health education and training purposes.

The Base Health Center, located at Mathigiri Village, offers both outpatient and inpatient services. It is open 24 hours to provide emergency care and is staffed and equipped to perform surgical procedures, including C-sections and deliveries. The Center is serving more and more outpatients from Hosur town and nearby communities, with an increasing number of surgery and emergency cases. More factories in the area are sending their employees for routine checkups and emergency care.

Under the Mobile Clinic and Village Outreach Programs, Anantha Ashram's health team goes out in a jeep to the outlying villages, usually three days a week, and holds free "health camps." At these camps, different categories of people are examined and given free treatment and, where necessary, are referred to the base medical center or other specialist institutions for further tests and treatment. These health camps are held in collaboration with two other NGOs involved in health services in the area.

Health education provided in the villages includes the organization and follow-up of children's clubs, the presentation of video shows, and meetings with mothers and adolescent girls. Volunteer community health workers continue to be selected in the villages and brought to the Center for training.

Summary: There follows an estimate of the different services provided in 1997:

- 5200 outpatients and 600 inpatients at the Base Health Center
- 1400 patients examined or treated through mobile clinics
- 3000 people receiving health education through video shows
- 800 children visits at children's club gatherings
- 500 mothers and adolescent girls instructed at MCH clinics and mothers' meetings
- 200 community-health volunteers attending training sessions

In addition, 13 to 17 destitute children were being cared for in the Children's Home, and 17 poor boys and girls, who in their villages had no access to any education at all, were receiving assistance to attend elementary boarding school during the year.

Cost: Not counting the value of services of volunteers or of personnel seconded to

Anantha Ashram by another charitable organization, the estimated cost of current operation of all projects for the 1997-1998 fiscal year is only about US\$ 42,000. This amount is further reduced by income generated by the project itself, particularly the Base Health Center, which for the year is estimated at \$16,000. Thus, the estimated net cost of operating all of Anantha Ashram projects for all these thousands of people in one year is only \$26,000.

As much as 94% of the funds raised through CUP are used directly in the projects; promotion and audit expenses require only about 6%. This is hardly surprising, since CUP's Officers and Board Members, including Sam, its President, are volunteers. Our best wishes for the ongoing success of this high-minded endeavor!

Additional information may be requested by writing to CUP International, 17517 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Olney MD 20832, USA.

Louis J. Lovelace (Escondido CA)

Time really flies. Already we are in 1998 and my membership fee is of course due. So, please find attached my usual yearly check of \$10.

As for me, I have no news of interest to talk about. Life here is almost the same, at least in our common desire to know more about ourselves, and about man's endeavors to improve life and the human condition, as reflected in man's great accomplishments in science and medicine.

In this regard, we have appreciated the useful articles by Dr. Jaime Ayalde in our Association's Newsletters, for instance, the article, among others, on prostate problems and the excellent advice given. I do hope that you will continue this interesting series of articles, also give further, helpful information,

if available, on the common liver problems and even give a short review of the new approach to cancer treatment aimed, it would seem, at directly killing cancerous cells and, eventually, eliminating chemotherapy.

William H. McManus (Las Cruces NM)

Enclosed please see my check for \$50.00 for ten-year membership. I hesitate to go for the lifetime membership because I entertain deep doubts that I'll even live out the 10 years (no rebate required). When one considers (1) old age (72), (2) combat wounds from World War II, (3) advanced osteoarthritis, (4) results and effects of several tropical illnesses while doing field work for PAHO/WHO (malaria eradication) such as malaria three times, *P. vivax* twice, *P. falciparum* once, hepatitis, chronic amebiasis, a broken foot, chronic eczema, etc., it is a wonder that I am a member of anything.

However, I believe with the right spirit and maintenance of a sense of humor, plus a great wife always nearby, I manage to shuffle along. Question: Could this explain the high mortality rate among retired staff members?

Editorial Note: Who says our mortality rate is so high?

Rafael Miranda Franco (San Juan PR)

Espero y así son mis deseos de que el 1998 les traiga buena salud, dicha y prosperidad a todos Uds. y a sus seres queridos. Una vez más deseo felicitarles por el contenido tan interesante y la muy buena presentación del Newsletter de la AFSM. Es una pena que no haya una versión en español para los colegas que no dominan el inglés.

Fue muy interesante el informe sobre la Asamblea Anual así como la charla de la Sra. Jean Luke Hills, de la Oficina de

Información de la ONU. Es lamentable el hecho de que los Estados Unidos, uno de los fundadores y pilar de la ONU, esté atrasado en el pago de sus cuotas. A fines del presente siglo, cuando casi todos los países del mundo desean mantener la paz, es irónico que hayan personas con influencia en el Congreso de Estados Unidos que no vean con buenos ojos a la ONU y traten de separarse de esta organización. Ojalá y esto no suceda.

Es cierto que en los cuerpos directivos de la ONU y en los organismos especializados en ocasiones hay gastos innecesarios. Sin embargo, a insistencias de los Estados Unidos, desde ya hace algunos años se han hecho los arreglos necesarios para disminuir los gastos de operación. Los organismos especializados contribuyen al desarrollo de los países así como a mejorar la salud, educación, cultura y ambiente, por lo que es contraproducente reducir las aportaciones a los mismos.

Aunque con tristeza, es bueno enterarse cuales han sido los compañeros que nos han precedido en el viaje al "mas allá". Para los retirados desde hace algunos años esta es la única forma de enterarse de estos acontecimientos. Reciban un cordial saludo y los mejores deseos.

Dave Spirt (Falls Church VA)

(The following item was printed in *Quarterly News*, Association of Former WHO Staff, Summer-Autumn, No. 30-31, 1997)

"Dave loves to fly. He flew everything from dirigibles to jet fighters in his first career with the US Navy. He flew more sedately on many of his assignments with WHO as a management officer until he retired about 20 years ago.

"He flew through Geneva at the end of October this year, arriving with the pumpkins

for an American-style Halloween at the home of Lisa and Francesco Cirieco—Lisa is the daughter of Herb Ohlman, also retired for many years from WHO. Dave then stayed with friends, Jerry and Inge Kilker, in the Haute Savoie. He also called upon other former colleagues from WHO, including Irwin “Ike” Brooks, formerly Chief, Supplies, Ann Elter, of the former division PGS, John Morgan, BFI, and Yves Beigbeder, PER.

“We admire Dave. He has been flying in this world—one way or the other—for 83 years. He packs his kit bag and tosses it over his shoulder, puts on his beret, kisses his wife, Jean, adieu, hops on an airplane near his home in Falls Church, Virginia, USA, arrives in Europe the next day, and—if he doesn’t meet an interesting companion when he lands—jumps on a train and visits friends or favorite haunts. He left us on this trip when we put him on the direct train to Toulon, in the South of France, to continue his visa with Stan Dota, another old buddy from Geneva.

“Viva Dave!”

Jean Surgi (Rockville MD)

Some people retire from PAHO and never set foot in its doors again; some keep in touch and return occasionally for PAHO or AFSM activities; some cannot stay away for very long. I fall into that third category!

Perhaps I came to PAHO too late (I only served a little more than 20 years before I reached retirement age) and did not get it “out of my system.” In any case, during 7 of the 11 years of my so-called “retirement” I have worked for varying lengths of time at various assignments on various types of contracts—WAE, temp, etc. I first continued sporadically in the Budget Office (where I had spent most of those 20 years of regular employment) for about three years. During

1994 I worked for the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief two or three days a week on a project related to the Haiti oil embargo (believe it or not!).

Since early 1995 I have been working, on a temporary basis, with Conference Services overseeing document production for Governing Bodies meetings. I do not work a full year, but I work full time when I am there.

I really enjoy my job; I believe it has kept my mind active and thus may have slowed my aging process! It is very satisfying to realize that I could learn a new job at my age and could perform at a reasonable level of efficiency. Those of you who remember that I was the first supervisor of the original Secretarial Center on the second floor at Headquarters will be interested to know that I am back in the same space (with a greatly diminished staff). I have learned about PCs and WordPerfect and Word for Windows 95 and am now in the final stages of conquering Office 97 with yet another version of Word. I am not yet as comfortable with the Internet (there is just *too much* information out there!) and e-mail, but I suppose I must eventually get into those areas as well, especially if I want to communicate with my grandchildren when they go to college!

When I am not working, my husband Bill and I frequently travel. (Don’t ask me when I do my housework; I’m saving that up for my next retirement!) Over the years we have been to Australia twice, to Japan twice, to New Zealand once and to Midway Island once. We have visited all of the 50 states, including Hawaii and Alaska, and we constantly take short trips for family weddings or for WWII reunions; you can probably tell from my list of travels that Bill served in the Pacific! Some day I hope to get to Europe.

Our most recent venture was my *first* to Latin America, after all those years of

working at PAHO (where my one and only duty travel trip was to CFNI in Jamaica). In January we went on a cruise out of Miami which took us to Grand Cayman, to Costa Rica, through the Panama Canal, to the coast of Ecuador, to Peru, and to three cities along the coast of Chile. We disembarked at Valparaiso and spent three days in Santiago, where we visited with my old Budget Office buddy Rodrigo Vigil and with recent APL retiree Cynthia Rojas. Then we flew back to Lima and from there to Cuzco, where we took the train to Machu Picchu, flying back from there to Lima and to Miami. It was a marvelous three weeks, and I even visited a PWR Office (in Santiago, where Rodrigo works as Budget Officer).

My other major interest, and really my first priority, in addition to work and travel, is my family, which is small and close-knit. I have a husband, two daughters, one son-in-law, and two granddaughters (16 and 14½), and we all live in Montgomery County MD. We get together quite often; one granddaughter comes to our house after school most days; and the seven of us spent a week at Disney World last summer. I am lucky to have them nearby and to count them all as friends!

I cannot slight AFSM when it comes to my interests. Most of you know that I am the secretary of the Board of Directors; I also help with the Newsletter and with other tasks. My philosophy is that if you are going to belong to an organization, it is more fun to help run it than to just take what comes your way. (If you agree with that, let us know and we'll get you involved, too!)

P.S. Bill is again off to the Pacific, this time as a member of the expedition headed by Dr. Robert Ballard (who found the Titanic) to find the USS Yorktown, on which Bill was serving when it was sunk at the Battle of Midway in June 1942. They didn't invite me to go along!

Robert J. Tonn (Las Cruces NM)

It should be extremely comforting for us retirees that there will be an "International Year of Older Persons." Who knows, we might actually get some respect. When I talk with my clinic about my bill, I remind them that I am old with high blood pressure, etc., but all I get is, the hell you say, and the same run-around, which is bound to shorten one's life span. Here in the Southwest we already are aware that older persons are big business. Every day we hear from retirement villages and HMOs wanting us to join them in the pursuit of the "Good Life" and to orient us on the next step, the nursing home.

I enjoyed the piece on sleep, stress, sex, self and garlic. Writers of such material make money while promoting doubt in the minds of us old folks. For example, I never worried about sleep or sex until I read that we were supposed to have problems with them. Now my emotional health is terrible because I am waiting for something to go wrong and I may be experiencing stress. Actually I am not sure of the latter, as stress became an in-word when I was overseas and I am not sure of the meaning. A pity—when I was working with the UN an important concept passed me by.

The concept of "Healthy Dying" sounds good. Why, it could actually become a sin to die if one was unhealthy. And just think of the money the undertaker would save on cosmetics if everyone died with a healthy complexion. But I have a feeling something is going on to get us old folks in the grave as soon as possible to save the medical care organizations money and give physicians more free time for golf.

Let me explain. A year ago I had my annual physical. Immediately afterwards a religious group called and asked me if I was saved. This was followed by the local cemetery

committee wanting to sell me a plot and an insurance company wanting to sell me a nursing home policy. I do not think this was well coordinated, as I felt I might be dying at any moment and the insurance company would not make much profit.

This year has been similar. After my physical, I went to a local social function and three funeral directors came up and introduced themselves, my lawyer called that I should update my will, and I began to be bombarded by mail from companies wanting to explain my Social Security death benefits. Right now, I am not planning to take a physical next year for fear of the consequences.

Of course, everything takes on new meaning as one ages. When I was young lots of people told me to go to hell, and it did not bother me. About a year ago, a relative, who is a man of the cloth, told me I was going to hell. Since he seems to have some influence upstairs, I stopped to consider what could be done. I am too old to change my lifestyle, so now I am spending hours in the steam room and sauna getting acclimatized. Maybe that is the meaning of healthy dying, as my beer belly has become somewhat deflated.

Jaime, I really think you should write something on the selection of a physician, for the process can be very frustrating. For example, upon retiring I found a cardiologist to serve my medical needs. After badgering me into taking off about 15 kilos, he still would not let up. I was walking eight miles a day, working out at a gym for about two hours a day and limiting my intake of food and drink. Finally I said enough of this nonsense. Later I found out he ran in marathons.

My next selection from the medical community was fond of giving tests. He gave enough tests to considerably enhance

is lifestyle. Once after climbing six flights of stairs to get to his office, he immediately took my blood pressure and found it slightly high. Rather than listening to why it might be high, he ordered a battery of tests that could provide him with at least an around-the-world vacation. I said the hell with it and began looking for another doctor.

This time I went to a clinic and spent hours watching the doctors walk by. I noticed one that was a fat slob with just a hint of cow manure on his boots. I knew there would be little talk of diets and exercises. I made an appointment. After introductions he asked if I knew what alcohol abuse was; I answered no. He said, "Pouring the last of a drink out." His next question was if I could define an alcoholic. I tried, but he said no, it was someone who drank more than his doctor. I now have a doctor to whom I can relate.

Actually, I do enjoy the Newsletter and hope you keep up the good work.

YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Ivy Dermatitis

by Jaime Ayalde

Ivy dermatitis results from irritation of the skin by urushiol, the toxic resin of the poison ivy, poison oak, or poison sumac plants. It is medically known as *Rhus dermatitis*.

Rhus dermatitis occurs as poison oak dermatitis in the western United States and poison ivy and sumac in the rest of the country. The interval of time between skin contact of poison ivy and the first appearance of symptoms varies from a few hours to several days depending on the sensitivity of the patient and possibly conditions of the skin. Symptoms include moderate itching or burning sensation followed by small blisters, which usually rupture and are followed by oozing of serum and subsequent crusting.

The dermatitis may occur as a direct exposure to the plants in your own garden, in parks or other outdoor areas, or as a result of contact with pets or other animals that might have been exposed to these plants.

Lesions may be acute and disabling or, more commonly, low-grade and persistent. Most patients with significant *Rhus dermatitis* do not respond to topical corticosteroids, but they usually respond to oral corticosteroids given over a 12- to 14-day period. A two-week course of oral prednisone is usually the treatment of choice. (Antihistamines are ineffective in contact dermatitis.)

Since the treatment involves systemic corticosteroids, it is recommended that the primary care doctor or a dermatologist be consulted. The patient should complete the full course of the medication even if the rash has subsided in the meantime.

In addition to the systemic (oral) corticosteroid regimens, topical treatment is often used: edematous areas with broken vesicles may be dressed three times a day for 15 minutes with compresses that have been soaked in astringent solutions. These may include aluminum acetate (Burrow's) solution diluted 1:40 and white vinegar diluted 1:10 in water for oozing or weeping lesions.

To dry up lesions and prevent bacterial infections, other agents such as antiseptic and drying paints may be used (carbolfuchsin solution, gentian violet 1%). In addition, an antipruritic lotion (calamine) is often needed.

As a preventative, learn to recognize the plant. While in the garden, use long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and gloves. If contact occurs, wash with water and soap, apply calamine lotion, a cool wet dressing of Burrow's solution, or epsom salts.

If you are particularly sensitive to poison ivy, use an ivy-blocking lotion. These are available over the counter and produce a clay-like coating that can be washed off with soap and water. Apply it 15 minutes before you might be exposed to the plant.

FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO WHO PUBLICATIONS

Former staff can receive subscriptions to two of WHO's major serial publications and discounts on WHO's other priced publications. Persons who have left the organization (after at least six months' service) can choose either or both World Health or World Health Forum to receive in one of the regular language editions.

In addition, they can receive a 50% discount from the normal price for other publications. The discount for other subscriptions is 25%. An added advantage for alumni away from Geneva is that these discounts are in addition to those for developing countries. Also ask for catalogues, order forms, and publication announcements.

Write to DSA (FAX +41 22 791 68 57), visit WHO's Web Site <<http://www.who.ch>>, or send e-mail to <publications@who.ch> for more information.

Extra special: The July-August 1997 recent issue of World Health is devoted to the health of the "Active Ageing."

Quarterly News, Association of Former WHO Staff, Summer-Autumn, No. 30-31, 1997

REMEMBER!

ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

**Tuesday, 19 May 1998
SAVE THIS DATE!**

IN MEMORIAM

Mark D. Hollis

Mark Dexter Hollis, a public health official who warned of the dangers of air and water pollution nearly 50 years ago, died 24 February 1998, in Lakeland, Florida. During World War II, Dr. Hollis helped establish a federal agency called Malaria Control in War Areas, a precursor of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He was its director when it became the CDC in 1942.

In 1951 he was appointed assistant surgeon general, as well as the Public Health Service's chief sanitary engineer. Three years later, he began a comprehensive study of city air. From 1961 to 1973 he served as the World Health Organization's chief engineer and environmental programs director.

- From the *Washington Post*

Edwin R. Lannon

Edwin Raymond Lannon, who served as Chief of Administration at PAHO from July 1970 to November 1975 died 7 April 1998 in Rockville, Maryland. He had retired in 1979 as director of advanced systems for the Social Security Administration.

- From the *Washington Post*

DECEASED STAFF MEMBERS, 1997

d'Ipolito, Guiglielmo	2 January
Bernal Lopez, Carlos	5 January
Carney, John Francis	22 January
Zapatel, Juan Antonio	27 January
Sollmann, Elfriede	28 January
Angulo, Humberto	8 March
Albi de la Fuente, Hernán	17 April
Childress, William H.	19 April
Velasquez, Arturo	3 May
Macher, César	23 May
Ayrolla, Jacy	25 May
Lima, Orcilio José de	4 June
Salvo, Pedro Juan	24 June
Lopez Ore, Carlos	20 July
Vieira, Marcos	9 August
Vogel, Adalbert J.	12 September
Rivera, Vilma I.	25 September
dos Santos, Carlos Alberto	11 October
Mora, Enrique	13 October
Sguaitamati, Mariana	23 October
Xavier, Narciso Rodriguez	15 November
Londoño, Alvaro	2 December
Paula Motta, Celio Marinho de	6 December

Once again, we urge you to send us your comments and suggestions in regard to the Newsletter. Please send contributions on any subject that you think may be of interest to former staff members, as well as news about you and your activities, hobbies, travel and other information. We welcome your replies in either English or Spanish, whichever is more comfortable for you; we will print them in the language submitted. (However, we reserve the right to make small editorial changes in the interest of clarity or space available.)

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

**Mail to: AFSM (Association of Former PAHO/WHO Staff Members
Pan American Health Organization
525 23rd Street, NW, Room 314
Washington DC 20037-2895**