
REPORT

International research

CO-OPERATIVE research in European general practice has taken a further step forward. On 18 and 19 May 1977 at Marburg the fourth European General Practice Research Workshop met under the chairmanship of Dr E. V. Kuenssberg (UK), when representatives from the member countries reported on various research projects which are emerging from their pre-pilot and pilot stages of development.

In Denmark the 'sentinel practice' network is now under way and both Holland and the UK reported most encouraging results. Nevertheless, it was felt that further evaluation and assessment would be necessary over much longer periods. The idea of analyzing practice activities was popular and six computer projects dealing with different practice activities are now ready to involve more participating doctors. A joint pilot study between Belgium and the UK has already had most encouraging results, and the Belgian doctors found little difficulty in following the instructions.

In Norway a sponsored questionnaire study on health

care activities has now been completed. Answers from nine countries were received and are in the process of being collated. A research protocol on leucorrhoea, which had been piloted in the UK, was found advanced enough to be offered to several other countries, and a French questionnaire, designed to find out about research in general practice in different countries, has now begun.

The meeting agreed to strengthen the organization of the European General Practice Research Workshop by supporting the excellent work of the Secretary General, Dr Dorrenboom of Rotterdam, by asking each country to appoint a national secretary who would act as a liaison point in each country.

Several other potential research studies are being analyzed and discussed. There is certainly no shortage of ideas and it is likely that several more will emerge from their preliminary stages to become full international research studies.

JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT

OBITUARY

B. R. Sreenivasan, FRCP, FRCGP, FRACGP, Hon.LLD

B. R. Sreenivasan was a man of many parts. As a physician he was nonpareil, having distinguished himself for his knowledge of diseases of the chest and having published papers on subjects as diverse as lymphocytic meningitis and the electrocardiogram in artificial pneumothorax and pneumoperitoneum. A graduate of the King Edward VII College of Medicine in Singapore he was one of the first from this part of the world to obtain the membership of the Royal College of Physicians, and later to be elected a fellow.

He was fond of teaching medical students and he would take time from his practice to teach in the wards. He had on many occasions been an external examiner in medicine in the University of Malaya (Singapore). He was also the past Vice-Chancellor of the University of Singapore.

As a person, few could be his equal. He was a scholar in every sense of the word and his knowledge of the classics was greatly to be admired. His love of Shakespeare made him the complete physician, caring both for the body and spirit of his patients. His love of

humanity caused him to spend countless hours in organizations like the Singapore Anti-tuberculosis Association, and the many government commissions which he chaired on Malayanization and an inquiry into expenditure and efficiency in the Government.

However, despite this formidable background it was as an ordinary general practitioner that he liked himself to be known, and it was in this field as the caring doctor that he excelled best. He was a founder member of the Royal College of General Practitioners and the first President of the Singapore College of General Practitioners. In 1973 he was made a fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners, an honour which he richly deserved.

Sreeni, as he was known to his friends and colleagues, was a wonderful person to talk to. He was so knowledgeable, so witty and yet so humble. His loss will not only be felt by his wife, Madge, and his children but by all who have known and loved him. This loss is made bearable only through the happy and rich experiences he shared with us while he was in our company.

E. K. KOH
Singapore