

ANALYSIS OF INTERESTS

The following are some of the interests expressed by the earlier members:

Alimentary tract disease	Home care of sickness
Allergy	Human genetics
Anaesthesia	Immunization and vaccination
Anthropometry	Manipulation
Backache and lumbago	Neoplastic disease
Cardiovascular disease	Neurology
Children's diseases	Obstetrics
Dental caries	Parasitology
Dermatology	Photography and medical illustration
Drugs and their use in practice	Psychiatry
Ear, nose and throat conditions	Renal tract disease
Education of patients	Respiratory disease
Epidemiology	Somatotypes
Geriatrics	Statistics of general practice
Haematology	Virus diseases

From an analysis of the applications of members it is clear that there are three types of research-minded general practitioners.

The first is the man who prefers to work alone, and may have a definite object in view: for example an M.D. thesis. His enthusiasm for a subject will enable him to work it out in as great detail as his practice and his clinical material will allow. He may need advice on the value of his undertaking, on colleagues who are working on similar problems, and on the suitability of his work for publication or for any other purpose. The individual practitioner is perhaps inclined to excessive modesty, and may feel diffident about submitting his work for publication. The College can help him in a number of ways: for instance, it may obtain an unbiased opinion from the research advisory panel, or it may put the 'one-line' worker who has exhausted all the clinical material in his own practice in touch with a colleague who can provide him with more, or it may help him in the publication of his work.

The second has interests in some wider field. When it is known that others share these interests, the next logical step is the formation of study-groups, within the membership of the Register. Two, three, or more could agree to form a study-group, and appoint one of their number to act as recorder. A subject could be agreed, and an investigation designed by members of the group. For example, several members have expressed an interest in the statistics of practice work, psychiatry in general practice, and respiratory or cardiovascular disease.

Advice and help would be forthcoming from the advisory panel if required. It is hoped that study-groups will form themselves in this way, introduced and helped by the College, but in no sense controlled by it. All that is desired is that the College be informed of the investigations and of their progress.

The third is willing to collect information to be analysed by a central organization. A great deal can be learnt from the proper application of the statistical method to general-practitioner research, and the help of these practitioners will be of great value in certain investigations initiated by the College.

THE RESEARCH ADVISORY PANEL

The College hopes to build up, by degrees, a panel of experts in a wide field of scientific and medical experience. The panel exists in nucleus, and Professor Ian Aird, F.R.C.S., Mr John Beattie, F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., Professor A.D. Gardner, D.M., F.R.C.P., Sir Wilson Jameson, M.D., F.R.C.P., Professor J.M. Mackintosh, M.D., F.R.C.P., Sir Heneage Ogilvie, D.M., F.R.C.S., and Professor Robert Platt, M.D., F.R.C.P., have agreed to serve on it.

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