



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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Provisional Agenda Item 9.4

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20 August 2004
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

JACQUES PARISOT FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP AWARD, 2004

Nine applications for the award were reviewed by the Americas Advisory Committee of Health Research (AACHR). The criteria used in the selection of proposals were: originality, relevance to the theme, scientific merit and methodology, feasibility of implementation, impact of the result, track record and experience of the applicant, and ethical issues. This document summarizes the applications, which are listed in Annex A.

Background

1. The Jacques Parisot Foundation was established in 1969 by Madame J. Parisot to perpetuate the memory of Dr. Jacques Parisot, former President of the World Health Assembly. Since 1975, a fellowship for research in social medicine or public health has been awarded every two years. The Foundation is administered by the Director-General of the World Health Organization, who implements the decisions of the Foundation Committee.
2. Each Region takes its turn to propose three candidates. It is now the turn of the Americas Region to do so. A fellowship with the value of US\$5,000 will be awarded to a candidate who submits a worthy project and is considered capable of bringing it to fruition. The research should be completed within a period of 12 months.
3. The Regional Director for the Americas has suggested the topic for research should be “Healthy Environments for Children.” Member States were invited in June 2003 to nominate suitable candidates for the fellowship. The proposals were then reviewed by the Americas Advisory Committee on Health Research (AACHR). The Advisory Committee’s assessment will be used by the Regional Committee to select the proposals. These proposals will be submitted to the Selection Panel accompanied by the AACHR’s assessment and the Regional Committee’s comments.
4. The Selection Panel will meet in January 2005 and make a recommendation to the 115th session of the Executive Board, with whom the final decision rests.
5. A medal will be presented to the successful candidate at the World Health Assembly following the satisfactory completion of the research project.

Proposed action

6. Ten proposals were received from the Region for consideration. Unfortunately, the tenth proposal was received one month after the Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR) had met (see Annex A). Four of the proposals did not comply with all the required documentation, and some did not send in the research project, which is why they were not considered for evaluation. Finally, only five proposals were evaluated by the ACHR, to which the criteria for relevance, importance and scientific merit were applied. The Committee agreed that only two of the projects merited being recommended for consideration by the WHO Regional Committee for the Americas.

7. The primary recommendation of the Committee for receipt of the fellowship was given to the project by Dr. Kumar Alok, of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital of Barbados: “The Emerging Impact of HIV/AIDS on Children and AIDS Orphanhood in Barbados” (Annex B). The recommendation for an alternate project was the one submitted by Dr. Ana María Acuña of the Medical School of the Universidad Oriental del Uruguay: “Impact of Intestinal Parasitic Infections on Children’s Health” (Annex C).

Annexes

JACQUES PARISOT FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP AWARD 2003

#	Country	Applicant/Institution	Project Title	Commentary	Receipt Date
1	Barbados	KUMAR, Alok Queen Elizabeth Hospital	"The emerging impact of HIV/AIDS on children and AIDS orphanhood in Barbados"		15 October 2003
2	Uruguay	ACUÑA, Ana María Facultad de Medicina	"Impact of intestinal parasitic infections on children's health"		20 October 2003
3	Barbados	LWEGABA, Anthony Queen Elizabeth Hospital	"Core competencies for Health Environment Smart Kids (HESK)"		15 October 2003
4	Uruguay	BIANCO, Eduardo Sindicato Médico del Uruguay	"Design of a pilot program for an educational and social intervention to develop relevant abilities, aptitudes, skills, and knowledge with regard to tobacco smoke-free environments, targeted to 5 th and 6 th grade elementary school children in Uruguay."		20 October 2003
5	St. Vincent	EDWARDS, Lucine LIVERPOOL, Beverly St. Vincent and the Grenadines School of Nursing	"Obesity in children 0-5 years old in St. Vincent and the Grenadines"		4 November 2003
6	Dominica	CARTER, Annette C. Princess Margaret Hospital	"Anaemia in children less than 6 years old admitted to Princess Margaret Hospital"	Incomplete proposal	4 November 2003
7	Trinidad & Tobago	GRANDERSON, Isabella F. University of the West Indies	"To assess knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and practice of two groups of adolescents aged 13-19 years, in Barbados and Trinidad, as well as their physical and health status before and after an educational intervention about nutrition and environment"	Incomplete proposal	15 October 2003
8	Barbados	KING, Donna María Ministry of Physical Devel., Housing and the Environment	No proposed research found	Incomplete proposal	15 October 2003
9	Barbados	St. John, Cheryl Joy Ministry of Health	No proposed research found	Incomplete proposal	15 October 2003
10	Guatemala	Melgar Arana, Arandi A.	The effects of the pollution of the Jalapa River on children who live along its banks, within the urban area of Jalapa"	Received one month late	18 November 2003

Source: IKM/CR--2003 Jacques Parisot Fellowship Foundation

Proposal Title: The emerging impact of HIV/AIDS on children and AIDS orphanhood in Barbados

Applicant: Dr Alok Kumar
37 year old male

Relevant experience: Dr. Kumar was trained in India as a Medical Doctor (MB, .BS, and specialized in Pediatrics (DM Pediatrics). He has research experience in the field of infectious diseases and has ongoing research projects in the area of HIV/AIDS at the Public Health level.

Appropriateness of the proposed project: This study of HIV/AIDS orphans is high priority in the Caribbean with the present epidemic profile.

Background and justification: The author correctly identifies the children orphaned by HIV/AIDS as a vulnerable group and justifies this study by underlining the absence/underdevelopment of structured programmes to deal effectively with both prevention and management of the current problems.

Objectives:

1. To estimate the prevalence of HIV/AIDS orphans in Barbados
2. To estimate the trends in incidence over a 3 year period
3. Describe the planning for the welfare of children by their mothers ante mortem
4. Describe the social circumstances of the HIV/AIDS orphans in Barbados

Methods:

For the most part the methods chosen are appropriate.

For objective 1, the author proposes to use demographic techniques to calculate the prevalence of HIV/AIDS orphans in Barbados.

For objective 2, the proposal is to establish a surveillance mechanism to estimate 3 year incidence rates.

For objective 3, the methods proposed are vague, but basically consist of eliciting information from mothers as well as other care providers. One presumes that the instruments will be developed once funding is available.

Data Analysis: The methods proposed are appropriate.

Recommendation. This is a much needed study in a high priority area. The author appears to have the training, expertise and institutional support required to execute this study. The Committee recommends it be funded, but further that the methods proposed to address objective 3 be made more explicit.

Recommendation for Alternate Jacques Parisot Award Recipient

–by: Dr. Luis Rosero-Bixby, ACHR Member
November 2003

**DR. ANA MARÍA ACUÑA
URUGUAYAN, PHYSICIAN, SPECIALIST IN PARASITOLOGY**

**PROJECT PROPOSED: IMPACTO DE LAS INFECCIONES PARASITARIAS
INTESTINALES EN LA SALUD INFANTIL**

Dr. Acuña is a university professor, 48 years old, in charge of a parasitology laboratory in a hospital in Montevideo, Uruguay, with a record of publications in local journals.

Her proposed research “IMPACT OF INTESTINAL PARASITIC INFECTIONS ON CHILDREN’S HEALTH” addresses the problem of re-emerging parasitic diseases among children in day-care centers of Montevideo. Prevalence of 20% to 40% of circosis lumbricoides in children of poor neighborhoods in Montevideo.

The proposed study follows a prospective case-control design to determine the impact of parasitic infections on the health and wellbeing of children. In the study, there will be 200 infected and 200 non-infected children. Health status and wellbeing of these children will be measured and the results will be compared between the two groups. It is a well focused research with clean objectives and high probability of success. The project will be completed in 12 months.

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