

RITAM Newsletter No 37 – March 2005

Dear Colleagues,

1. RITAM Website

A RITAM website is long overdue, but we had not been able to design one until now due to lack of funds. Now RITAM member Ann George, and her daughter Chloe, have very generously offered their time and expertise in helping us to design a website. We hope to have it up and running later this year.

Our plan is to include the following sections:

- a) Home page
- b) Contact details (including of chair and secretary of each specialist group)
- c) Publications
- d) Specialist groups
- e) Guidelines
- f) Membership (including links to members' organisations)
- g) Conferences
- h) Ongoing research

Please send me any comments on this, so that we can incorporate them into our plan. In particular, if you would like a link on the website to your organisation or institution, please e-mail me with details of the organisation and its website.

2. RITAM Guidelines for Electrocardiography

A second draft is now being prepared of these important guidelines. It transpires that no guidelines exist for the assessment of the cardiac safety of any herbal medicines. Therefore these guidelines could be applied more widely to other herbal medicines. If you would like to contribute some feedback or comments on these guidelines, please contact me.

3. Future Meetings of Interest

A. The 11th NAPRECA on Natural Products and Drug Discovery, Antananarivo, Madagascar, 9-12 August 2005

For further information, see: <http://takelaka.dts.mg/rafita>

B. Women's Health and Asian Traditional Medicine conference, 23-25 August 2005, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia.

For more information, see: www.whatmedicine.org

C. Medicine and Health in the Tropics, Marseille, France, 11-15 Sept 2005

There will be a special symposium on "Natural anti-parasitic agents", chaired by Dr Gerry Bodeker (RITAM Chair) and Dr Milijaona (Institut Pasteur de Madagascar). Dr Ben Gilbert from Fiocruz, Brazil, will be the keynote speaker. Further information on the conference is on the website at www.iftm-pharo2005.org

D. Fourth MIM Pan-African Malaria conference, Yaoundé, Cameroon. 13-18 November 2005.

For further information see www.mim.su.se/conference2005 Negotiations are underway to organise a RITAM side-meeting.

4. Funding opportunities

NATIVE LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

The Native Leadership Scholarship ('NLS') is an international program of Channel Foundation, based in Seattle, WA, USA. It provides funding to citizens of developing nations and members of indigenous societies for graduate education. NLS support is for study/research that is focused on needs of the student's native population. Research should be based on the student's present or prior experience working with this population, and should aim for community-based, culturally appropriate solutions.

The intent of NLS support is to prepare native leaders to end or alleviate critical social, health, educational, environmental or economic problems/needs of their countries. Examples would be the AIDS pandemic, infant mortality, reproductive health, gender equity, microbial diseases, child exploitation, drug/sex trafficking, war/conflict resolution, environmental protection, agroecology, global fair trade, and sustainable economic development.

ELIGIBILITY: The qualified candidate

- 1) is a citizen of a developing nation and/or member of an indigenous population.
- 2) has proof of a bachelor's or higher degree.
- 3) has at least 3 years of work experience dealing with critical social, health, educational, environmental or economic conditions that threaten life or social stability, that discriminate, or that destroy or deplete the nation's resources.
- 4) is accepted into a graduate program of an accredited university for full-time study/research related to the work experience.
- 5) Can show evidence of financial need for educational support.
- 6) intends to return to his/her home country to work, utilizing training and research acquired in the study program.

AWARD INFORMATION: NLS awards range up to US\$25,000 per year (June through May). 4 – 6 scholarships are granted each year. They help students to meet the costs of tuition and fees, books and educational supplies, housing, maintenance, and travel to/from the home country and institution. (For students in U.S. universities, NLS funding for expenses other than tuition and books is subject to U.S. tax.) Candidates may use NLS funding for graduate study at accredited institutions worldwide. Students from the Global South who plan to enter graduate programs in universities of the Global South are encouraged to apply.

TERMS: An accredited educational institution is one which maintains a regular faculty and curriculum, and has a regular, organized body of students in attendance on site or through distance learning. NLS award funds are paid directly to the institution for a student's account. Award recipients are selected on an objective and non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, sex or age of the applicant. However, NLS awards do not support programs of study that promote specific religions. Employment status is a factor only in regard to the requirement for at least three years' professional experience in the applicant's proposed field of study or research. A Selection Committee of at least 3 people, including a Channel trustee, a graduate-level university administrator, and a representative of an international NGO determine applicants' eligibility and decide awards. Selection and terms of NLS awards are determined by financial need, evidence that an applicant requires financial support to attain the education planned. Applicants cannot be disqualified persons with regard to Channel Foundation, Selection Committee members, or relatives of either.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION: NLS awards are monitored by annual or semi-annual reports from the student's department or research advisor showing satisfactory and timely progress. Email communication is maintained with the student, and a brief evaluation is required of him/her following

completion of the program of study. Renewal of awards may be made at the discretion of the Selection Committee, based upon satisfactory progress. Students must notify Channel Foundation immediately, in writing, of any change in program, research focus, enrolment status, or career goals. Failure to maintain eligibility requirements results in termination of funding for the next academic period. Channel takes all reasonable and appropriate steps to recover funds not used to further the purposes of the scholarship, or to restore diverted funds to these purposes.

PRE-APPLICATION: The application period for 2005-06 NLS awards is Jan. 1 to March 26, 2005. Persons who meet the requirements listed above should submit a NLS pre-application form no earlier than Jan. 1 and no later than March 26. Email to: chanfound@comcast.net or write to: Scholarship Administrator, Channel Foundation, P.O. Box 24524, Seattle, WA 98124 USA, to request a pre-application. **NOTE: LETTERS OF INQUIRY AND PRE-APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER MARCH 26 WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. THE NEXT AVAILABLE APPLICATION PERIOD WILL BEGIN JAN. 1 FOR THE FOLLOWING ACADEMIC YEAR.**

SELECTION PROCEDURE: In late March, the NLS Selection Committee meets to screen all pre-applications. (No other documentation is reviewed in this preliminary screening.) The committee chooses the 12 - 15 which most closely match NLS award criteria, and applicants in this group are invited to submit the full NLS application with supporting documentation. In late May, after reading all of the full applications, the committee meets again to decide on the award recipients. The awardees are notified on or about June 1, and award funds are issued in the summer months.

4. Recent Publications of Interest

The following are recent publications by RITAM members:

Fowler DG (2002). Traditional Ila Plant Remedies from Zambia. *Kirkia* 18(1): 35-48.

Bertani S, Bourdy G, Landau I, Robinson JC, Esterre P, Deharo E (2005). Evaluation of French Guiana traditional antimalarial remedies. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 98 (1-2): 45-54

The following are other recent publications of interest:

Akogun OB, John KK (2005). Illness-related practices for the management of childhood malaria among the Bwatiye people of north-eastern Nigeria. *Malaria Journal*, 4:13. www.malariajournal.com

P.A. Tamez, D. Lantvit, E. Lim, J.M. Pezzuto (2005). Chemosensitizing action of cepharanthine against drug-resistant human malaria, *Plasmodium falciparum*. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 98 (1-2): 137-142

Philippe G, Angenot L, Mol PD, Goffin E, Hayette MP, Tits M, Frederich M (2005). In vitro screening of some *Strychnos* species for antiplasmodial activity. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 97 (3): 535-539.

5. Websites and Internet Resources of Interest

The citation-based index of social science malaria literature has been updated and is available at www.malaria.org. Once on the website, click on the PSSMC section to access the different databases. Published, Lusophone and Francophone literature as well as technical reports and meeting presentations are indexed in alphabetical order. The new additions since the last update in October are in bold type.

6. New members

We welcome the following new members who have joined since the last newsletter:

Natasha Edgerton, Independent researcher, Mbale, Uganda.

Rev Dennis Fowler, retired Methodist minister, working on ethnobotany of Zambian traditional medicines.

Prof Jahja Kisjanto, Professor Internal Medicine, Medical faculty, University of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Anoka Ayembe Njan, Lecturer, Department of Pharmacology, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda.

Gideon Tuani, Chemistry Department, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, GHANA. Researching herbal insect repellents.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Easter.

Yours sincerely,

Merlin Willcox (Secretary, RITAM)