

### Prevalence of HBV Infection in Health Care Personnel

Madam, I read with interest a short report published in your November, 1994 issue titled 'Prevalence of HBV Infection in Health Care Personnel'. The report does not clearly define the studied population, as it was not mentioned that what is the exact number of doctors, dentists and sweepers employed in the JPMC. Unless whole of the studied population at risk is taken into account the estimation of prevalence remains unreliable. Secondly, it was recommended that all

#### Reply

Madam, The primary purpose of the study was to know problem of HBV in health care workers. It was the pilot study. I agree with Dr. Bader Faiyaz Zuberi that for determination of true prevalence of HBV infection in health care workers, a better designing and selection of larger study population are needed. With regards his reservation over my recommendation of HB vaccination of all susceptible health care worker, I feel there is some misunderstanding in interpreting the term susceptible. By this term I meant all health care workers who have not been exposed to the HB infection but carry the potential risk of getting it because of the nature of their work.

susceptible health care workers be vaccinated in our region where carrier rate is 10% and exposure rate is 32% indicates that 42% adults do not need vaccination.

Bader Faiyaz Zuberi  
Department of Medicine,  
Chandka Medical College, Larkana.

Naturally their identification need prior testing for HBs Ag and HBs Ab. However, I am in total agreement with him, that in presence of the high exposure rate of HBV infection in health care workers, there is no justification of their vaccination without prior screening of Hepatitis B markers.

Syed Abdul Mujeeb  
Blood Transfusion Services,  
Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre,  
Karachi.

### Meetings and Seminars

#### Fifth Biennial International Conference of the Pakistan Physiological Society. 18-19 October, 1995

The Fifth Biennial International Conference of the Pakistan Physiological Society is scheduled to be held on 18-19th October, 1995. The Conference is open to all scientists engaged in any field of medical sciences. For information please contact Dr. Abdul Waheed, Correspondence Secretary of the PPS Conference, Department of Biochemistry, Ayub Medical College, Abbottabad- 22040, Pakistan, telephone No. 4081/3040, Fax 5653.

#### First IDF - WHO Regional Leadership Course On Management of Diabetes Mellitus 24th April - 1st May, 1995

The Diabetic Association of Pakistan (DAP) and WHO Collaborating Centre, Karachi in collaboration with International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and World Health Organization (WHO) is sponsoring this course at Karachi from 24th April to 1st May, 1995. For more information contact Prof. A. Samad Shera, Secretary General, Diabetic Association of Pakistan, 5-E/3, Nazimabad, Karachi-74600, Pakistan, telephone No. 6616890, 6680959, Telex. 23507 TAZAM PK, Fax. 92 21 4546759.

#### 2nd Asian Pacific Congress of Endoscopic Surgery

The 2nd Asian Pacific Congress of Endoscopic Surgery will be held from 19th-23rd June, 1995 at Hong Kong. The

Congress would be organised by the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Chinese Surgeons of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Society of Digestive Endoscopy and Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons, Hong Kong. Deadline for submission of abstract and registration at reduced rate is 1st February, 1995.

For further information please write to the Congress Secretariat, 2nd Asian Pacific Congress of Endoscopic Surgery, Department of Surgery, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Prince of Wales Hospital, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong, telephone Nos. (852) 636 2625, (852) 636 2627, Fax: (852) 637 0979 and (852) 645 3602.

#### WONCA Satellite Meeting, Beijing

The Chinese Society of G.P. in cooperation with WONCA and the Task Force to China are organising the WONCA Satellite meeting at Beijing from 15th to 18th June, 1995. The meeting will be conducted in workshop style and will deal with the following main questions: (1) Why TCM in G.P./F.M.?, (2) What is applicable from TCM to G.P./F.M.?, (3) When to practice TCM in G.P./F.M.? and (4) Where to practice TCM in P.H.C. or Hospitals? A one week TCM demonstration course will also be available for the interested participants.

For further information please write to WONCA Beijing Satellite Meeting and TCM Demonstration Course, Chinese Medical Association, 42 Dongsi Xidajie, Beijing 100710, China, telephone No. 86-1-5134885, Fax: 86-1-5123754.