International Study On Myocardial Infarctions WILLIAM FALK, MD

A CHAIRMAN IS needed to take charge of the Canadian section of this pioneering study on myocardial infarction. It has been developed to the stage where an international study is feasible, following pilot studies by Dr. Marianne Szatmari of Budapest.

The objective of the study is to learn about prophylaxis of coronaries through observation and follow-up of myocardial infarction patients. The international nature of the survey makes it possible to compare data from patients living at different standards, with varying nutritional habits, and under different geographical and meteorological influences. We hope to check the sensitivity and specificity of some risk factors through observing similarities and differences in various countries.

The observation period will be from July 1, 1973 to July 1, 1975. The first draft of the recording forms has been received, and is being criticized by the participants. We now need a volunteer with enough interest in coronary disease and its prevention to take on the responsibility for this project in the planning stage. As usual, the committee would help the chairman with advice, and in finding recorders. Anyone interested in more details should contact Dr. J. A. Collyer, Chairman, Subcommittee on Clinical and Therapeutic Studies, 787 Adelaide St., London 24, Ont.

Nova Scotia Workshop

Following the meeting of the National Research Committee, May 27-28, at Chester, N.S., there was a two-day workshop on research techniques. This was a productive and stimulating session, presenting many new ideas and approaches. Delegates were from variety of medical groups, including rural and urban family practitioners, teachers from family practice units (two from the U.S.), representatives from the Health Protection Branch of the Federal Government, and residents from family practice units.

Chairman for local arrangements was Dr. Iain MacPherson, whose excellent talent for organizing made it a very successful meeting. The August issue of CFP will contain a detailed account of the workshop.

E-Books

At the Nova Scotia workshop, we learned of the increasing interest in the E-book in the U.S., where it has been accepted as a teaching aid in many of the family practice units since it was introduced to the University of Rochester, N.Y., by Dr. David Metcalfe. With a similar trend now developing in Canada, we expect that many of the graduates from these programs will continue to use the E-books in practice. One of the points which has not been emphasized enough before is the value of the E-book in practice management where it could be even more useful than it is in research.

Asthma Drug Evaluation

Wanted: family physician, interested in asthma and its treatment. A Canadian pharmaceutical firm has asked our College to participate in a project to evaluate a drug for the treatment of allergy. Emphasis is placed on the reduction of steroid dosage and on sociological measurements.

A chairman is needed to plan and supervise the study if it proves feasible. Advice and assistance will be provided by the national research committee and the pharmaceutical company. This project seems to be appropriate to the plans of the research committee to become more involved in the evaluation in practice of certain drugs. Anyone interested should contact Dr. Collyer.

Registered Practices

We need to identify practices in Canada which have a practice register, or some other method of showing the patient population at risk. For various studies, which may include the Illness Observation Unit, it is important to have an accurate list which can be used to calculate relative incidence of diseases, and the age-sex breakdown. Anyone who has a practice register, or who is interested in starting one, should contact either Dr. Collyer or Dr. Falk.

Provincial Chairmen

New chairmen are Dr. R. A. Lund (P.E.I.); Dr. M. Tarrant, (Alberta); and Dr. D. M. Robb (New Brunswick). They will be available to members in their provinces who have research questions or ideas for discussion.

How Many Do You Have?

How many diabetics are there in your practice? How many patients are you responsible for? How do you compare with others in your community?

These questions can be asked about many other conditions, but diabetes is of special interest to many of us. There are relatively well-defined criteria for diagnosis; there is a reasonable hope that screening tests will be worthwhile, and there is a good chance that treatment will make a difference to the patient.

At the Nova Scotia workshop, we were extremely interested to hear the experience of Dr. A. Watson of Lunenburg. He has 112 known diabetics in his practice, an incidence of about 2.5 percent. This seems to be relatively high, and consistent with the reputation of the area. This area is an
ideal one to include in a study of diabetes in various family practices in Canada, comparing characteristics of patients as well as environmental factors. It is entirely possible that we could uncover some significant new information about the cause of diabetes, or at least some new factors in its cause.

Interested In Research?

Are you interested in doing research in your practice? If so, the College of Family Physicians' Research Committee would be pleased to hear from you and to answer any questions you may have or to assist in solving administrative problems. Dr. Donald L. Crombie, director of the Research Unit for the Royal College of General Practitioners, will be spending a year at the University of Western Ontario and will be available to the committee for consultation. Questions on research should be addressed to Dr. William Falk, 1660 Feltham Road, Victoria, B.C.

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