

Abstract

This Research Programm funded for the 1st time in May, 86 only on the condition that a WHO grant will be available to do the project work. The support through NARESA was to employ a Research Assistant for a period of two years and a small amount of money for miscellaneous expenditure. The project was thus initiated with a WHO Re-Entry Grant and after one year further support was obtained from the WHO/TDR through a SWG Grant.

Collection of parasite material is being done in the field with the help of personnel of the the Anti-Filariasis Campaign and the Colombo Municipal Council, whereas collection of patient and control sera for antigen analysis and serology is being done via the Filariasis Clinic at the Genral Hospital, Colombo.

A panel of 18 anti-mf MABs has been produced which are stage and species specific for microfilariae of Wuchereria bancrofti when tested with homologous and heterologous filarial parasites. It seems unlikely that they are directed against PC determinants and they do not mediate cell adherence.

An IRMA has been established in the Unit using MABs produced agaist Brugia malayi, and it is intended to be used with the anti-mf MABs produced in our laboratory to detect circulating W.bancrofti antigen in serum and urine of infected patients.

Attmepts at producing anti-L3 MABs have so far been unsuccessful. However, the insectory facilities have been improved and the L3 production has increased considerably over the past few months. At present sufficient numbers of L3s are available for the project work and thus anti-L3 MAB production will be persued further without interruption.