Editorial

Dear readers,

According to the Statutes, a new Committee has been elected on 12 October 2004. We are very happy to see many women candidates, as we had sought, and we shall not be satisfied until total parity is achieved. Our concerns have been those of our members and we have tried our best to solve them during the last four years. The most important one has been the health insurance reimbursements for long-term care and we are hoping that the "degressive", or progressively reducing, percentage of reimbursements of health expenditures (currently reducing from 80% to 20%) will be eliminated by the forthcoming meeting in Geneva of the Health Surveillance Committees and the Staff associations of HQ and the regions. We have also been following the pension adjustment system in order to track real cost increases but the new committee will have to take it on. The other concern has been the Quarterly News but we are hopeful that it will also be soon resolved. Our website is still not properly operational although our friend Jens Jorgensen tries to maintain it from Belgium. We sincerely hope that a retiree with informatics skills will volunteer to help us. We have participated in many social and cultural activities including the international day of the aged. We try to keep in contact with many current projects of WHO – health, nutrition, tobacco, environment, etc. – which are often in the world press. Any suggestion to expand our activities will be very welcome. I wish the new committee and the new President all the success in their tasks.

Dr D. Cohen, Chairman

CONTENTS

| p.1 | Editorial |
| p.2 | Interview with the AFSM Chairman |
| p.3 | On the light side |
| p.4/5 | Health |
| p.6 | Within AFSM, Treasury notes |
| p.7/8 | Readers’ corner, Committee’s corner |
| p.9 | Results of elections |
| p.10/11 | Travels |
| p.12 | Annual reception; obituaries |
**INTERVIEW with the outgoing AFSM Chairman**

Dr. Cohen, current Chair of the AFSM, will relinquish his position after two consecutive mandates (Oct 2000 to Oct 2004) as required by the Statutes. Quarterly News is reporting on some of his reflections.

**QN: Dr. Cohen, What lessons have you learnt from your Chairmanship as well as temporary editor of Quarterly News?**

I believe my most significant learning experience has been how to make the Executive Committee work together, avoid conflicts and misunderstandings among a group of people with the same spirit of service to the retired but with different temperaments. I think I have succeeded as witnessed by the relaxed spirit of courtesy prevailing in the Committee. I was also the Editor of the quarterly News for the issues numbered 51 to 55 after our friend Peter Ozorio edited the first 50 issues. The task is quite heavy and not easy at all coming after him, but it is the opinion of the readers which is important and I have learnt a lot.

**QN: You will no doubt touch on the issues of Long Term Care and Pensions. Can you give us some ideas about the reasons for the widely perceived differences between the actual increase of cost of living and the inadequate increases in pensions?**

Long term care has been one of our major concerns during the last four years and members have been kept informed. It will all come to a resolution in October when a meeting of the regional and HQ surveillance committees and the staff associations is held in Geneva. We sincerely hope that the inequitable progressive reduction of health insurance reimbursements for long term care will finally disappear.

The pension adjustment system is complex: it is based on consumer price index (CPI) reported by governments which often does not reflect the actual increase in costs of living. Also, the index used is for the whole country and not of a particular site of residence: for example, in Geneva, the index used is that relative to the whole of Switzerland and not that of Geneva alone where the cost of living has gone up considerably but there has not been any increase in the pensions for several years. The purchasing power of pensions has diminished and, in addition, Geneva has suppressed the previous 10% reduction of taxable revenues for tax purposes for the retirees leading to an increase in taxes. The other factor which has a negative impact on the purchasing power of pensions is the delay in applying the CPI index to pensions. Studies are under way to see how all these factors can be more adequately taken into account.

**QN: What about your experience as former Editor of the Quarterly News?**

I have already touched on the issue earlier; the experience has been very rich – the choice, the length, the presentation, and also the layout of articles; the position of articles, the selection of columns, photos, titles, the informatics behind computer-based layout and its final submission to the printer – all of which I did but did not know before; all of this was not done here before.

**QN: What will you do when your term as Chair expires?**

To work with the Committee on tasks entrusted to me, assuming, of course, that I am re-elected.

**QN: What advice will you give your successor?**

To try to interest everyone in the affairs of the Association, to listen carefully and to ensure that democracy prevails in all the dealings of the Committee.

**QN: A number of women are candidates in the election: if one of them is elected as Chair, do you think she will bring changes in work of the Committee?**

Certainly, but what changes exactly? It depends on the person elected. You see, I am being somewhat vague because I believe that what a man can do, a woman can also do, maybe differently, but equally well... or equally badly. It all depends on the person.

**QN: Thank you, Dr Cohen, for responding to our questions.**

Laura Ciaffi, Editor
ON THE LIGHT SIDE

A woman asks her husband: "Honey, would you like better a nice looking woman or an intelligent one?"

Replies the husband: "Neither one, darling, it is you whom I love ".
(Sent by our friend, J. Chang-Wailing).

A smile for you. A smile is contagious, you can catch it as you catch a cold. When somebody smiled to me today, I started smiling too. I went around the corner of the street and somebody else saw my smile. When he smiled, I realised that I was going to pass him my smile. I thought about this smile and I realised its value. A simple smile like mine can do the tour of the world. So, if you want to smile, do not keep it, show it. Let's start an epidemic, and that the world be infected! Go on smiling and send it to a friend. Everybody needs a smile.
HEALTH

SWITCH TO HERBAL MALARIA DRUG IS ON
Dr R. Pal

(excerpted from the International Herald Tribune)

After years of hesitation, world health agencies are racing to acquire 100 million doses of a Chinese herbal drug that has proved strikingly effective against malaria. The drug, artemisinin, is a compound based on qinghaosu, or sweet wormwood. First isolated in 1965 by Chinese military researchers, it cut the death rate by 97 percent in a malaria epidemic in Vietnam in the early 1990s. The new Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has given 11 countries grants to buy artemisinin and has instructed 34 others to drop requests for two older drugs, chloroquine and sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine. WHO estimates that 100 million doses will be needed by late 2005. The price of artemisinin has fallen from US$2 per treatment to 90 cents or less as more companies in China, India and Vietnam have begun making them. According to Doctors without borders, drug resistance to chloroquine tops 80 percent in some areas, rendering it and other monotherapy drugs “virtually useless” in many African nations. They have estimated that providing ACT for all Africa would cost $110 million to $220 million at current prices. Combined with effective prevention measures ACT can help break the cycle of malaria-related poverty that pervades so much of Africa. Drs Powell and Coluzzi\(^1\) have stated that there is a potentially explosive situation in the expanding distribution of a highly dangerous complex of mosquitoes. From a public health perspective, mosquitoes in the *Anopheles gambiae* complex in sub-Saharan Africa are the most important insect group in existence today. There is good evidence that *A. gambiae* is repeatedly being transported to various regions of the world, but it has not established a sustainable population. However, in warmer climates there is a greater potential for *A. gambiae* to become established. Even without the introduction of African *Plasmodium* strains, almost all non-African tropical regions have experienced endemic malaria and the introduction of this highly efficient vector would greatly increase human malaria cases.

\(^1\)Jeffrey R. Powell is a professor at the Yale University. Mario Coluzzi is a professor at the University of Rome La Sapienza

*********
U.S. ALTERS RATINGS ON RISKS TO HEALTH
(excerpted by Dr R. Pal from The New York Times)
In time for the peak travel season, the leading U.S. source of health information for travellers has been revamped. On May 20, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta started a new system on its Web site for describing and ranking the severity of disease outbreaks around the world. The information, at www.cdc.gov/travel is far more specific than it was. It categorizes outbreaks according to four levels of concern and gives advice to travellers on reducing their risk. With travel to exotic destinations on the rise, there is an increased potential for the rapid spread of infectious diseases, said Bradley Connor, president of the International Society of Travel Medicine, in Georgia, and medical director of the New York Center for Travel and Tropical Medicine in Manhattan. "The need for good travel health information is more important now than ever before," he said. Previously, the Centers issued general information about outbreaks, either in the form of advisories, which recommended against nonessential travel to an area, or alerts, which told travelers about health concerns in specific regions but did not recommend against travel. Travellers and travel doctors found that approach confusing at times, said Patricia Simone, associate director for science in the CDC's division of global migration and quarantine. The catalyst for the change was an inconsistency in terminology used by the Centers, Simone said. In March 2003, shortly after the epidemic of severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, began in China, Vietnam, Singapore and Canada, the agency used the term "advisory" to mean different things in different contexts. In the travel health information, "advisory" signalled the highest level of concern. But on the CDC's Health Alert Network - devoted to health emergency preparedness - "advisory" indicated the second-highest level of concern. Many people who were scheduled to travel to countries affected by SARS did not know whether to cancel their plans or what steps to take to protect themselves, Connor said. The new system stratifies outbreaks by their level of risk, using four categories - which are, in increasing order of severity: "In the News", "Outbreak Notice", "Travel Health Precaution" and "Travel Health Warning". Last month a "In the News" notice, which covers sporadic cases of a disease, was prompted by 25 cases of Ebola hemorrhagic fever in southern Sudan, including six deaths. It recommended that travellers in the region avoid contact with Ebola patients and not eat meat from wild animals, which can spread the infection. An Outbreak Notice refers to an infectious disease that is confined to a specific region and is not spreading. In May and June, there was an Outbreak Notice on polio in West and Central Africa, with the recommendation that adults get a booster shot and make sure that their children's vaccinations are up to date. Travel Health Precaution refers to an infection that is spreading over a large area or between countries. There were no such precautions posted as of July 9, but the CDC's site stated that the outbreak of avian flu in Southeast Asia last winter would have qualified, had the new health information system been in effect. The highest level of concern, a Travel Health Warning, is reserved for an expanding outbreak that is not under control. Because of the level of risk represented by such a warning, the CDC will recommend that people postpone nonessential travel or, if they do travel, that they take specific precautions. In the case of SARS, for example (which would have triggered a Travel Health Warning), the Centers advised travellers to monitor their health while away and for 10 days after their return, and if symptoms developed - to warn their doctor ahead of time to reduce exposure to others. As of July 2, there were no warnings listed. It has become increasingly clear that the fight to control avian influenza will be long and hard and success by no means guaranteed. WHO and FAO have stepped up their efforts to combat the epidemic in birds before the virus can leap to humans.

1 Note : Since the publication of this article, it seems that in Thailand this leap had happened and that at least one case of transmission from person to person occurred (in this case from daughter to mother - they both died). WHO launched a plea to the relevant laboratories inviting them to quickly produce large amounts of appropriate vaccines.
WITHIN AFSM

A VERY WARM WELCOME….

To our former colleagues who became Life Members of AFSM since the Mailing List was published in December 2003. The update also includes those who converted from annual to life membership and those who, by omission, found that they had lost a star in the process (our apologies!).


and to those of our former colleagues who became Annual Members of the Association.

MRS. M. CHOUCRI, DR. N. FETISOV, MR. J. FROMEN, MR. R. GOMES DA SILVA ARBENZ, MRS. M. ISMAIL, MR. P. KAUFMANN, MRS. C. LARSEN, MR. F. WEBB,

Averil Foster, Treasurer, August 2004

AFSM TREASURY NOTES

The Association's finances are in good shape, with an excess of income over expenditure of CHF 7,936.00 for the current year. The Treasurers would, however, like to see a few more annual members bring their membership up to date. At CHF 20.00 per year, it is one of the few things in life which has not risen in price since 1990, the year when dues were paid for the first time. So if you have forgotten, or have been too busy, do contact us as soon as you can.

Several of our new Members have queried why we do not issue receipts. It has always been the policy of the Association to give these to those of you who come to the office and pay cash, or when they are specifically requested. We do not normally send receipts to those paying through the bank or post office as it is considered that this in itself is proof of payment. However, if required, we should, of course, be delighted to comply - just give us a call. We hope that you have all had a very pleasant and relaxing summer

Averil Foster and Samy Kossovsky, Treasurers, August 2004
The Readers’ corner

Dear Ms Ciaffei,

First of all I wish to express my appreciation and congratulation to our chairman Dr. D. Cohen for his wise selection and his previous announcement about your joining the Editorial Board of our AFSM Quarterly News. I have received the latest edition (QN 56) and appreciated all its contents which included technical articles of importance to the health of its readers. The contents which provided us with some highlights about the 57th World Health Assembly and the World Health Report 2004 as well as other issues of public health importance reflect the technical and professional quality of the Newsletter and its Editorial Board. I wish you continuous progress, and looking forward for more similar contents in future issues.

N.B: Please convey my best regards and good wishes to Dr. Dev Ray. He is an old colleague when I was in WHO/EMRO. Also, my best regards to all the members of the Editorial Board.

Dr. K. Mneimne, Former WHO/EMRO Regional Adviser (EDH)

Thank you, Dr Mneimne, for your kind, encouraging words. The Editorial Board appreciated them.

A reader asked, quite aptly, why in an article on smoking in Quarterly News N° 56 the symbol used by the European Medical Association on Smoking or Health (EMASH) was the caduceus with two snakes (adopted, *inter alia*, by the American Medical Association and other associations) rather than the Asclepius' caduceus with only one snake as adopted by WHO. We are fully aware of the difference. It was not an oversight, but there were historical and practical reasons why EMASH opted for the two-snake staff rather than WHO's.

R. Masironi, President, EMASH
Vice-chairman, AFSM

I was recently in the USA and I had the pleasure to visit John I. Armstrong (former Director, AMP) and Al Malakoff (former Personnel Officer at HQ and SEARO and Administrative Officer in WPRO) and his wife in their respective retirements homes near Washington. They have asked me to give their warm greetings to all their former colleagues and friends through QN.

Y. Beigbeder

The chairman received a letter from Mr. J. Chang-Wailing, former WHO Ombudsman and former AFSM treasurer. Here are large excerpts from it:

…Re QN52: You mention that QN should “…give importance to WHO’s objectives...”. I can appreciate your interests in WHO, but I would point out that our Newsletter is not an official channel of communication for WHO. Our serving colleagues are much better equipped to assume those responsibilities.

…the QN is published for former staff, whose interests are paramount... I would like to state my surprise that the agenda of our General Meeting was placed on page 1. Normally the agenda is sent to us through the mail and distributed at the meeting, where it also is subject to amendment. Page 1 of QN should be reserved for something exceptional.

… Re QN53: You say the “new style” production of QN 51 and QN52 did not cost a penny, but we should not just consider cost (unless it is excessive). After all the QN is the only means of communications and service for far away members. The cost of the « old -style » QN was minimal and we got value for money. We must not forget we are a not-for-profit association...

…Re QN55: I am pleased to read your direct appeal to English-speaking candidates to run in the
3RD QUARTER QN 57 2004

Page 8

Association of Former WHO Staff

...election next Autumn, as it echoes the modest proposal I made in a letter published under “Untapped riches” in QN. No 49. I argued that Anglophones of whatever nationality are needed not only for a balance in the working languages of WHO but also for diversity of outlook and approach. A precedent exists in WHO’s policy of gender balance and even in the geographic distribution of staff, which represents an equitable allocation system. So important is this equilibrium, may I suggest that the Executive Group use its authority to declare an extraordinary trial measure for the next election—that one third of places be reserved for English-speakers of any nationality. In the United States, this is an incentive known as “affirmative action” which has worked well in diminishing inequalities. Applied to the Executive Group, it could also bring in new blood, badly needed. Finally, I have no axe to grind in making this suggestion, being from Mauritius and bilingual English/French (as well as speaking my native Creole). I hope this time, my views will be passed on to colleagues through QN, for discussion and debate.

Sincerely

Joseph K. Chang-Wailing, Former Hon. Treasurer AFSM

Thank you, Mr Chang-Wailing. Our readers will react to your comments. Let me only wonder how it could be possible to oblige retired people to run in the elections, if they don’t wish to. As for English-speaking people of different nationalities, they always have been more than one-third, and this time, they are 7 or 8 candidates out of 15. Anyway, is the situation in AFSM comparable to that of the United States? As for the interests of our members, you have certainly noted that a paramount importance has been given to Health Insurance and Pensions, and that many members are also interested in environment and other problems.

D. Cohen, Chairman

Prompted by the aerial picture taken by our former colleague Geneviève Martinod – an amateur pilot, see QN 55- another pilot wished to be known: Dr Ken Waldron formerly from the Regional Office in Brazzaville. Here is his photo alongside a Cessna 150. A warm editorial welcome to such intrepid AFSM members. Are there other ones like them?

The Committee’s corner

The AFSM Executive Committee meeting, held on July 6th, dealt mainly with the preparation of the elections. It also covered pension issues and the representation of former staff associations (FAFICS) in the mixed and permanent UN pension committees. It also finalized a circular letter to be mailed to all the health insurance surveillance committees and to the staff committees, in both HQ and the regions, concerning the meeting which will be held this October in Geneva on long term care.

Candidates for elections
You may be surprised to note that three former Presidents of AFSM are not candidates for the election to the Executive Committee: Dr Alain Vessereau, who founded the Association (1989-1992), and his two successors, Dr Stan Flache (1992-1994) and Dr Rajindar Pal (1994-2000). In fact, they have been appointed Honorary Presidents by the Executive Committee, in recognition of the important services that they have rendered to the AFSM, which makes it unnecessary for them to be candidates to the elections. This honour allows them to have access to and to receive the documentation made available to the members of the Executive Committee, to be invited to attend its meetings and working groups, although without voting rights. The Executive Committee may give a Honorary President a mission within the mandate of the AFSM. Besides being an honour bestowed on our former Presidents, which enables us to continue to benefit from their experience and competence, this decision has allowed the Committee to be open to new candidates in order to "rejuvenate" its composition and to have access to new energies and new projects.

D. Cohen, Chairman

RESULTS OF ELECTIONS, 12 OCTOBER 2004

Congratulations to the newly elected Executive Committee members (2004-2006)
Here is the list of names (followed by the individual number of votes).
COHEN David (325), RAY Dev (321), BEIGBEDER Yves (309), FOSTER Averil (308), MARTIN Carol (304), MENU Jean-Paul (294), KOSSOVSKY Samy (293), VILLARS Rosemary (293), FONTANA Roger (291), MELLONI Marguerite (285), MASIRONI Roberto (281), MODIS Carole, (242).
Followed by: SAYNOR Richard (236), DJAZZAR Sabih (212), VANIGASOORIYAR Antoinette (149).
Total number of envelopes: 366; total number of valid ballots: 360; total number of spoiled ballots::6.

Special thanks go to Ms Sandra Edgar, from the WHO Polling Office who chaired the polling operations and to the following volunteer polling officers: Mr Norman Cobbold Mrs and Mr Jery Kilker, Ms Paula Leccia, Mr. Gérard Perrin and Mrs Helen Wielander.

The first meeting of the new Executive Committee will be held on 9 November. The composition of the new Bureau and the tasks of the other members will follow.

TRAVELS
Evidently, our plea to readers to share with us experiences that they thought of interest have elicited favourable reactions. Prompted by Dev Ray's article in Quarterly News 56 on his trip to Bengal, a reader sent us a write-up on another interesting journey in that fascinating continent that is India.

Impressions of Rajasthan

J. Leclercq

For those who knew Bharat Mata (Mother India) in the '70s to arrive in winter time to Delhi today will be a shock. There are four times as many inhabitants and motor vehicles - the deafening traffic is equal to that of the country's three other largest cities together. Gone are the vultures - victims of some mysterious virus (like the sparrows of London), and the cows no longer have the right to go about their sacred business - capital rules OK. What is more, a thick fog - humidity and pollution combined - gives a lugubrious, rather unreal air to everything. Let us quickly leave this sad scene and set out to discover Rajasthan, under a bright blue sky; to be precise, Jodhpur, but by-passing Udaipur, with deep regrets. Here we are, then, in the land of the rajahs et ranis, the caravans et the desert expanses of Thar. The inhabitants, the Rajputs are ferocious warriors, and their cities not without a certain refinement, are dominated by fantastic fortresses with impressive ramparts. Once past posterns and drawbridges, elegant palaces occupy two areas, the mardana reserved for men et the zenana for women, who they say only saw the world through the latticework of barred windows (jali) and made an imprint of their crimsoned hand on the wall on the way to the ritual funeral pyre for sati. On the way we meet several penitents dressed in ochre robes leaving on a pilgrimage behind an elephant loaded with all their gear, an insight of ageless India that will turn out to be our only one: Pokaran and its fort, more or less transformed into a hotel, is a reminder of the geopolitical present; it is here that the country's nuclear arms programme tests are carried out. May the calming of tension between the two neighboring States help to divert the colossal military budgets to other ends. Jaisalmer makes out to be as fair as Jodhpur is blue, and it is where we shall see the first havelis, patrician houses with magnificent decorated facades, built by senior officials or rich merchants. We will visit several - one owned by a jeweler who brings out for us his entire collection of old silver. Bikaner, is a monument to its great maharajah, Ganga Singh (the Lion), who represented India at the treaty of Versailles Conference (in 1919) and formed his friendship with Clemenceau (the Tiger). His hunting lodge, superbly situated, in Gajner, testifies to the splendors of the period between the two wars. In Bikaner, there is also the camel festival, a great meeting of these haughty beasts that, in the words of the bard, seem twisty only for the rest’. Finally, we shall stay at the Bhanwar Niwas hotel, a superbly restored haveli where one has to eat vegetarian, the owner being a jain. We proceed to Shekhawati which might also be called the land of the havelis, as we shall see many of these wonderful residences. Their owners, the Marwaris lived there but rapidly extended their activities to the whole of the plain of the Indus and Ganges even to Assam. The younger generation now live in the smart quarters of Bombay or Calcutta and pay little attention to the palaces of their elders, which are falling into disrepair. One catches oneself dreaming of a vast operation for their renovation which would have the additional advantage of carrying on the tradition of the stone-masons and decorators.
of the facades of the regions, who are henceforth employed in countries of the Gulf. Jaipur has not always been the "rose-coloured city". It was even dirty grey until, for the visit of a Prince of Wales, it was decided to plaster it in salmon pink. The capital of Rajputana is not what it was when Guy de Brébison knew it in 1962. It has become commercialized and the traffic is as crazy as elsewhere. Don't worry, the Jai Singh 2nd Observatory still keeps perfect time and the elephants have not given up carrying visitors up to Amber Castle - another splendid site. Like the camels they aspire only to peace. On the way walk to Amber we stop in front of the Taj Mahal, resting pleasantly in the middle of the lake, a vision reviving regretful thoughts of Udaipur. We are now sufficiently knowledgeable and well prepared to discover the treasurers of Agra, the climax of our journey. But before the masterpiece itself let us visit the first attempt, the mausoleum that Nour Djaham (Djahanigir's wife) had erected for her father, honoured with the title of Itimad ud-aula (Pillar of the State). Then on to the Red Fort and imperial apartments from which the prisoner Shah Djahan could survey the Taj Mahal, the mausoleum he had built for Mumtaz, his favorite consort. Today it is shrouded in mist and we must cover a good distance and pass at least two gates before the "wonder of wonders" is revealed, this "tear on the cheek of time" as Rabindranath Tagore so aptly called it. One remains speechless when confronted by such harmony of form and dimensions - the Golden Number of the ancients. Back to Delhi by road. Getting out of Agra is a homeric task. Independently of our will we find ourselves caught up in a demonstration of farm-workers (reportedly Jats) parading with their tractors among waving banners. It will take an hour to reach a country road leading to the Akbar mausoleum at Sikandra. Even empty, the tomb of the greatest Emperor of the Timourians is imposing. It was desecrated by the Jats (yes, them again) although he was a tolerant ruler who restored religious concord. Next day, it is the turn of Old Delhi - the Red Fort (which the military authorities have just classed as a historic monument), Chandri Chowk (the scene of "clair de lune") and the Friday Mosque, built under Aurangzeb. The afternoon will be devoted to the National Museum, our visit a sort of recapitulation of all we have seen and learnt with our guide and lecturer. Before leaving India we still have to see the minaret of Qutb and its dependencies, as well as the complex of funeral premises of the Humayun Mausoleum.


The "Phillips Collection" at Gianadda, 2 September 2004
Dr Samy Kossovsky, organizer of this AFSM group outing

Our Association had organized a group visit to this exhibition. The restaurant "Trois Couronnes" in Martigny had reserved for us a room to serve us a delicious lunch that everybody appreciated. At the Pierre Gianadda Foundation, the large number of visitors made it impossible to form a group, and everybody was free to visit around by him/herself. Every single painting was really worth the trip, from El Greco to Paul Klee, through the romantic painters, the impressionists, the expressionists, etc.; moreover, other masterpieces were in permanent exhibition : paintings, sculptures, historical automobiles, Leonardo da Vinci. All participants expressed great satisfaction. A big thankyou to Roger Fontana who did not shirk any effort to ensure the success of this visit. We should think about repeating the experience.
Annual reception: Just a note to remind our readers of the annual AFSM reception which will take place on December 2004. Further details will follow.

![Photo of Nedd Willard with sketches](image)

On the occasion of last year’s reception our colleague Nedd Willard (photo), showed in the reception hall sketches that he made of places he visited during his travels (see photo).

Corrigendum: In the English version of issue N° 56, obituary for Dr Lambo, second line from bottom, "he might have bad" should read "he might have had".

Obituaries

Our sincere condolences go to Dr D. Flahault, our colleague in the Executive Committee and the Editorial Board, who suddenly lost his son Cyril on 11 October in Geneva.

The following deaths have occurred since the last announcement:

ABDUL HADI, Abdul Majid, 04.11.03; AGTHE, Claus C., 12.12.03; BUDEIRI, Mohamed Zaki, 01.10.03; KATTAN, Henry, 31.07.04; CHALMERS, M., 14.11.03; CHAND, Shrimati, 06.10.03; DEVI, Khimuli, 11.10.03; DIAMANT, Ben-Zion, 01.02.04; DOUMTABE MBABA, D., 16.06.03; FARIAS, E., 02.12.03; GAILLARD, Marcel, 01.10.03; GARCIA, S., 25.12.02; GLOKPOR, Akoko Felicité, 24.11.03; GOMEZ, Mendoza I., 26.10.03; HAMMAMY, Mohamed B., 09.10.03; JACKSON, James M., 19.10.03; JAGDISH, Lal, 24.12.03; KAPLAN, Martin, 16.10.04; KAPUR, Prakash, 13.01.04; KMET, Janez, 27.10.03; LARSEN, Christian H., 06.12.03; LE DU, M., 25.01.05; MWAKA NDOMBA, P., 25.09.03; NGUETE, Kikhela, 25.01.04; NJAPNDOUNKE, Mariama, 25.04.00; PATTERTSON, H..J., 05.11.03; PENDELTON, D.M., 23.12.03; QUINONES, Jose, 22.12.03; SACH, Harry, 21.01.03; SERVAIS, Eugene J., 20.09.04; SILVA, Maria Luz, 17.12.03; THAINEU, Mali, Date unknown; TORRES, Jesse, 24.11.03; TROSS, Friedrich C., 12.02.04; VAIDYANATHAN K., 14.12.03; WILLIAMS, Amelia, 05.01.04; ZAHAR, Abdel R., 25.02.04

(Compiled by Rosemary Bell from various reliable sources).

We have been informed, with regret, of the death, in April 2003, of Dr. Pierre Pradier. Former Chairman of Médecins du Monde. Dr Pradier had left this activity to join WHO as responsible officer for emergency projects. His wife Dr. Danielle Pradier sent us a message concerning the recent publication of a book about her husband: "Pierre Pradier, a man without borders" by Maurice Goldring including texts by Pradier himself. Publisher: ATLANTICA. As former co-workers of Dr Pradier in emergency missions in Jerusalem and occupied territories in 1990, we wish to address to Mrs Pradier our best sentiments

Maryse Coutty, WHO staff member,
Roger Fontana, Vice-chairman, AFSM

Acknowledgements: Besides the contributors to the above articles, the Editorial Board wishes to thank the staff in Print, Distribution and Mailing services of WHO for their prompt and efficient help in printing and mailing the Newsletter. S. Kossovsky, D. Ray and R. Harrison must also be thanked for having translated sections of this Newsletter.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the AFSM.