

# BASIC GROUP ON FILARICIDE RESEARCH



The World Health Organization, through its Onchocerciasis Chemotherapy Project solicits proposals from scientists, either in the pharmaceutical industry or in academic institutions, for the establishment of a team or consortium to find and develop drugs, especially macro-filaricides, suitable for the large-scale treatment of human onchocerciasis ("river blindness"). One of the approaches will be to investigate the basic biochemistry of *Onchocerca volvulus* so as to define and exploit biochemical differences between it and the human host, but the team will be encouraged to explore other innovative approaches.

The team should consist of parasitologists, biochemists, biochemical pharmacologists and synthetic organic chemists.

The Onchocerciasis Chemotherapy Project is under the technical direction of the Director of the UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases and funded by the Onchocerciasis Control Programme in the Volta River Basin area. It is envisaged as a long-term effort. Funding is available for three years in the first instance. Liaison with other collaborative WHO-supported groups would be encouraged.

Proposals should be submitted to the Secretary, Onchocerciasis Chemotherapy Project, c/o OCP, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland (Tel. (022) 91.21.11). For further information contact Mr J. D. M. Marr or Dr B. O. L. Duke at the above address.

# BASIC RESEARCH ON FILARICIDES



The World Health Organization, through its Onchocerciasis Chemotherapy Project, which is under the technical direction of the Director of the UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in the Volta River Basin area, is desirous of developing a chemotherapeutic for safe use on a large-scale against human onchocerciasis (“river blindness”) and with emphasis on macro-filaricidal action.

Proposals for basic research designed to find new filaricidal compounds are hereby solicited, especially on the following lines:

1. Development of *in vitro* systems for maintaining alive adult *Onchocerca* spp (especially *volvulus*); and systems for culture of their infective larvae up to the adult stage.
2. Studies on the biochemistry of adult worms of *Onchocerca* spp (especially *volvulus*) to exploit differences between their metabolic pathways and those of the human host.
3. Study of the mechanisms of drug action on adult worms of *Onchocerca* spp (especially *volvulus*).

Proposals should be submitted to the Secretary, Onchocerciasis Chemotherapy Project, c/o OCP, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland (Tel. (022) 91.21.11). For further information contact Mr J. D. M. Marr or Dr B. O. L. Duke at the above address.

## PARASITOLOGY

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