

a liver score of 1.5–2. None of the control mouse had developed liver lesion; however, caecal lesion of 2 grade was found in 80% animals. The cultures of infected liver and caecal tissues were positive for *E. histolytica* trophozoites.

### DISCUSSION

*E. histolytica* infections both in liver as well as in caecum have been reported in hamsters<sup>8</sup>, rats<sup>9</sup> and guinea-pigs<sup>10,11</sup>, through intracaecal and intrahepatic inoculation of virulent *E. histolytica* trophozoites. These are not the natural routes of human amoebic infection. Amoebiasis in man generally occurs by the intake of water and food contaminated with *E. histolytica* cysts; as such the oral route and sometimes the rectal route are considered to be the main routes of amoebic infection. Quadri *et al*<sup>12</sup> produced experimental amoebiasis in mice which were treated with azathioprine, an immuno-suppressive agent, fed orally with *E. histolytica* cysts. Owen<sup>13</sup> reported caecal infection of rats and mice by oral inoculation of trophozoites of *E. histolytica*. There is no report where dual infection has been produced simultaneously in the same animal by oral feeding of *E. histolytica* cysts. Cholesterol has been found by several workers to induce invasiveness to non-invasive amoebae<sup>14,15</sup>. The present communication reports for the first time simultaneous caecal and liver infection in hamsters, mice and guinea-pigs by treating them with cholesterol and by oral feeding of *E. histolytica* cysts.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

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### INDIAN INSTITUTE OF METALS

During the Silver Jubilee year of the Indian Institute of Metals, the National Metallurgists Day Awards were announced by the President, Dr V. S. Arunachalam.

The recipients were Dr Dipanker Banerjee, Scientist, DMRL, Hyderabad; Dr Chaitanyamoy Ganguly, Head, Radiometallurgy Division, BARC, Bombay; Dr R. V. Krishnan, Scientist, NAL, Bangalore; Mr P. Sriram, Director, Rapsi Engineer-

ing Industries, Bangalore; Mr S. Bhattacharya and Mr D. N. Gorai of the Bhilai Steel Plant; Mr V. K. Lakshmanan of TISCO, Jamshedpur and Dr Lokeshsinghal and Mr Basudev Roy, RDCIS, SAIL, Ranchi.

Each award carries a cash prize of Rs. 7,500 and scroll of honour. The awards were presented to the scientists by Dr S. Varadarajan, Chief Consultant, Planning Commission, New Delhi.

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