

trips to classic geological localities near Fort William, including Glen Coe and Ballochulish. Here, the delegates were able to examine Proterozoic (Dalradian and Moine) metasediments and Devonian granites and volcanics. I. Dalziel (Univ. of Texas, Austin) delivered a lecture on Scottish Highland geology in its global (supercontinent) context. Larger (5-day) pre-conference and post-conference field trips to classic areas of Tertiary igneous activity in western Scotland (Rum, Mull and Isle of Skye) were also run and attended by groups of 10–20 people.

Conference abstracts, field photographs, and other information can be freely

downloaded from [www.mantleplumes.org](http://www.mantleplumes.org). This hugely successful website was launched in March 2003 by Foulger, and its objective is to provide information and generate debate among the scientific community regarding whether plumes exist, what alternatives are possible, and whether they do better at explaining intraplate volcanism and geodynamics than the plume model. At the time of writing, there are over 100 substantial pages authored by almost 200 scientists worldwide in addition to a host of other resources, including current pre-prints and papers, news items and bibliographies. New contributions to the website are welcome, and readers should contact

Foulger ([g.r.foulger@durham.ac.uk](mailto:g.r.foulger@durham.ac.uk)) or Alexei Ivanov ([aivanov@crust.irk.ru](mailto:aivanov@crust.irk.ru)) for further information.

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## MEETING REPORT

### Evidence-based and integrated medicine for lymphatic filariasis, other chronic dermatoses and HIV/AIDS\*

In India, millions suffer from lymphoedema. Worldwide management of filariasis with available drugs is effective, but the therapies are expensive. A national seminar was organized by the Institute of Applied Dermatology (IAD), Kasaragod to discuss alternative forms of therapies available in India for management of this disease.

Pradeep Kumar (IAD) discussed the aims and objectives of the seminar. This included overview of work done by IAD in the clinical analysis on patients who received integrated therapies, understanding gaps that prevent bridging different systems of medicine and developing an evidence-based patient treatment protocol for chronic and difficult-to-treat patients with chronic dermatoses and lymphoedema.

Sreekrishnan (Arya Vaidyashala College, Kottakal) spoke on sheelapada, ayurvedic understanding of lymphoedema, filariasis and treatment for lymphatic drainage. He gave an introduction on sheelapada followed by pathophysiology of oedema during the treatment, principles of sheelapada and internal herbal medication in sheelapada.

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\*A report on the National Seminar on Evidence-based and Integrated Medicine for Lymphatic Filariasis, other Chronic Dermatoses and HIV/AIDS, organized by the Institute of Applied Dermatology, Kasaragod during 8–10 February 2005.

Terence J. Ryan (Oxford University, UK) spoke on 'Global alliance for elimination of lymphatic filariasis'. According to him, skin diseases are common in the developing world, particularly in the rural areas of India, Africa, South America, China, etc. In India, filariasis is the major cause of lymphoedema. The most important activity taken up is to eliminate transmission by the mosquito of this microfilaria. If microfilaria are removed by drugs given to patients, then they cannot be transmitted to other patients. The Global Alliance has taken up the work of distributing drugs freely to patients. Another component of the programme is morbidity control.

Nandini K. Kumar (ICMR, Govt of India) discussed ICMR Guidelines and Regulation of Governing Traditional Medicine Research. Her talk included classification of traditional medicines, ethical and regulatory requirements, reverse pharmacology, requirements of international collaborative research, role of ethics committees and impact on national health economics while conducting research on traditional medicines.

R. K. Shenoy (T.D. Medical College Hospital, Alappuzha) spoke on 'How lymphatic filariasis can be managed'. According to him, lymphatic filariasis is a common vector-borne tropical disease that causes considerable long-term physical

disability in affected subjects. This disease is the commonest cause of lymphoedema and hydrocele in India. WHO has targeted this disease for global elimination by the year 2020. In India, 15 states including Kerala and 5 union territories are endemic for Bancroftian filariasis, while Brugian filariasis is prevalent only in certain regions of Kerala and other states. His lecture covered recent advances in understanding pathogenesis and immunology, development of potent diagnostic tools and chemotherapeutic agents that are safe and effective. Stages of filarial infection, clinical manifestations of the disease, diagnosis management of disability, treatment and prevention of lymphoedema were discussed by the speaker.

Apart from the lead lectures, some sessions were devoted to group discussions on topics like peer review of integrated management of filarial lymphoedema, future direction of clinical application for integrated medicines, therapies, ethical, legal and biodiversity issues, clinical demonstration of all stages of integrated management protocol for filarial lymphoedema of rural communities, chronic dermatoses, etc.

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