INTRODUCTION TO THE SYMPOSIUM ON CYSTICERCOSIS

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Successful control of taeniasis and cysticercosis requires two approaches: comprehensive programs of long-term interventions or short-term target interventions. This symposium has been organized to exchange information based on the most recent original topics concerned with NCC and to discuss the prevention and control strategies for this underestimated zoonotic infection worldwide.

We have seven invited speakers to present their own topics and others have not been able to join us. The first speaker is Dr Willingham from Denmark. His main work is not original research but rather diplomacy to organize collaborative work on parasitic zoonoses including NCC in Africa. On behalf of all collaborators from Africa and Denmark, he presents a summary of up-to-date NCC situation in several countries in Africa and focuses on Danish-Tanzania project (Boa et al, 1995). The second speaker is Dr Margono from Indonesia. She presents epidemiological topics in Indonesia, mainly in Irian Jaya (West Papua) and Bali (Simanjuntak et al, 1997; Wandra et al, 2000). The third speaker is Dr Vanijanonta from Thailand. She focuses on clinical aspect of NCC. Then, Dr Urbani from WHO Hanoi briefly summarizes these topics and presents the WHO recommendation on prevention and control of NCC. After a brief intervention (coffee break), the fifth speaker is Dr Ito from Japan. He presents a unique animal model for cysticercosis (Ito et al, 1997; Ito and Ito 1999). The sixth speaker is Dr Okamoto from Japan. He overviews mitochondrial DNA analysis on Taenia solium from Asia, Africa, and America and discusses the molecular phylogeny of T. solium and related species of T. saginata and T. saginata asiatica (= T. asiatica). The last speaker is Dr Sako from Japan. He presents serodiagnosis for NCC in humans and pigs (Ito et al, 1998; 1999). His main topics are evaluation of recombinant antigen for serodiagnosis (Hubert et al, 1999; Chung et al, 1999; Sako et al, 2000). After these presentations, we have discussion.

It is a great pleasure for us to exchange information for future collaboration from basic to applied research and for the control of taeniasis/cysticercosis.
REFERENCES


