

**WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION**



**Regional Office  
for the Eastern Mediterranean**

**ORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉ**

**Bureau régional  
pour la Méditerranée orientale**

EM REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH  
Fourth Meeting

14 August 1979

EM/4TH.MTG.AGCR/11

Tunis, 10-13 September 1979

Agenda item 4(f)

WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES  
IN THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

The idea of using national institutions for international purposes dates back to the days of the League of Nations when national laboratories were designated as reference centres for biological standards.

Other reference centres were established by WHO from 1946 to 1958. With the expansion of the medical research programme within WHO from 1959, the numbers of reference centres increased to reach 271 in 1969, and 522 by the end of 1970. A unified appellation of " WHO Collaborating Centres was adopted in 1973, with the title of each centre specifying its domain of responsibility.

The WHO Collaborating Centres are an important mechanism for promoting and undertaking WHO collaborative biomedical and health services research. The centres have the following functions

- the provision of reference services,
- the carrying out, under WHO contractual technical services agreements, of specific research projects
- participation in WHO-sponsored collaborative research activities
- the organization of research meetings on behalf of WHO
- training and research training
- standardization of methods and procedures, terminology and nomenclature, prophylactic, diagnostic and therapeutic substances, etc
- information synthesis and dissemination

The criteria for selection of institutions for designation as WHO Collaborating Centres, are

1. the standing of the institution at the international and national level in the particular field of research
2. the staff and facilities it offers for the services to be rendered to WHO
3. its prospective stability in terms of personnel and funds
4. its capacity and ability to serve one or several WHO programmes
5. its capacity to continue to provide services over a prolonged period and not merely for a single distinct research task.

The procedure of designation is the responsibility of the Regional Directors in consultation with the technical units in the Central Office, Geneva. This step was taken as a result of the decentralization of the management research efforts within WHO.

The largest number of WHO Collaborating Centres are located in the European Region i.e. 296 (64 being in UK), followed by the American Region 153 (92 in the US). The South East Asia and African Region have 27 and 28 centres respectively. There are 43 centres in the Western Pacific Region, and 34 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

A listing of the centres in the EM Region is given in Table I and their breakdown according to the country and WHO programme is given in Table II.

It may be pointed that currently the role of these centres together with that of the WHO Expert Advisory Panels and Committees in meeting the needs of the WHO regarding expert advice and in carrying out technical activities of WHO, is being studied by a working group established by the Executive Board of the WHO. The study group is expected to submit its final report to the Executive Board in January 1980.

The above is being submitted as information to EM ACNR members, and to solicit their views regarding the utilization/role of the WHO Collaborating Centres in the EM Region in the development and implementation of the Regional Medical Research Programme.

TABLE I.

WHO Designated Collaborating Centres in the EM Region  
(by Programme)

Series no.	Programme	Country	Name of Institution	Title of WHO Collaborating Centre	Director of Centre	Year of designation
1.	Human Reproduction	Egypt	Shatby Maternity Hospital Faculty of Medicine University of Alexandria	WHO CC for Clinical Research on Human Reproduction	Prof. H.K. Topozada	1974
2.	" "	Israel	Institute of Endocrinology Chaim Sheba Medical School Tel Hashomer	WHO International Reference Centre for Fertility Promoting Agents	Prof. B. Lunenfeld	1969
3.	" "	Pakistan	National Research Institute of Fertility Control	WHO CC for Clinical Research on Human Reproduction	Dr Talat Khan	1976
4.	Health Manpower Dev.	Iran	Department of Med. Education Faculty of Medicine University of Shiraz	WHO CC for Research into Health Manpower Process with Special Regard to the Role of Teacher Training Activities	Dr B. Joorabchi	1975
5.	" " "	Iran	Health Sciences Cluster Bu Ali Sina University Hamadan	WHO CC for Research in Health Services and Manpower Development		1978
6.	" " "	Israel	Centre for Health Sciences Ben Gurion University of Negev Beersheba	WHO CC for Integrated Health Services and Manpower Development	Dr M. Prywes	1972

Serial No.	Programme	Country	Name of Institution	Title of WHO Collaborating Centre	Director of Centre	Year of designation
7.	Malaria and other Parasitic Diseases	Israel	Department of Parasitology Hadassah School of Med. Hebrew University, Jerusalem	WHO CC for Leishmaniasis	Prof. C.L. Greenblatt	1960
8.	" "	Pakistan	National Health Laboratories Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Islamabad	WHO CC for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases	Maj. Gen. M.I. Burney	1975
9.	Virus Diseases	Iran	School of Public Health University of Teheran	WHO CC for Virus Reference and Research	Dr A. Madim	1978
10.	" "	Egypt	Egyptian Organization for Biological and Vaccine Production, Agouza	WHO CC for Virus Reference and Research	Dr Imam Zaghoul Imam	1978
11.	Veterinary Public Health	Iran	Rabies Department, Institute Pasteur d'Iran, Teheran	WHO CC for Reference and Research on Rabies	Dr A. Bahmanyar	1973
12.	" "	Iran	Faculty of Veterinary Med. University of Teheran, Razi State Serum and Vaccine Institute, School of Public Health and Institute of Public Health Research	WHO CC for Training and Research in Veterinary Public Health	Directors of the three institutions	1975
13.	" "	Israel	Department of Epidemiology Israel Institute for Biological Research Tel Aviv Univ., Ness Ziona	WHO/FAO CC for the Epidemiology of Leptospirosis	Dr L. Shenberg	1965

Serie no.	Programme	Country	Name of Institution	Title of WHO Collaborating Centre	Director of Centre	Year of designation
14.	Cardiovascular Diseases	Iran	Division of Stroptococcal Studies Institute of Public Health Research Ministry of Health and Univ. of Teheran	WHO Collab. Laboratory for Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease	Dr R. Charagozloo	1973
15.	"	Israel	Department of Medical Ecology Hadassah Medical School Hebrew University Jerusalem	WHO Collab. Laboratory for Research into Etiology, Treatment and Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases	Dr A.M. Davies	1968
16.	Mental Health	Egypt	Behman-Hospital Helwan Cairo	WHO CC for the Study of Psychotropic Drugs	Dr F. Loza	1972
17.	Biomedical Aspects of Radiation	Iran	Radiotherapy Department Pahlavi Hospital Faculty of Medicine Univ. of Teheran	WHO CC for Secondary Standard Radiation Dosimetry	Prof. F. Bagheri	1972

Series no.	Programme	Country	Name of Institution	Title of WHO Collaborating Centre	Director of Centre	Year of designation
18.	Biomedical Aspects of Radiation (Cont'd)	Iran	Research Institute for Nuclear Medicine and Endocrinology Faculty of Medicine Teheran	WHO CC for Nuclear Medicine	Dr S. Nezam-Mafi	1976
19.	Immunology	Israel	Department of Chemical Immunology and Cell Biology Weizmann Institute of Science Rehovot	WHO Immunology Research and Training Centre for Advanced Studies	Dr Ruth Arnon	1971
20.	"	Iran	School of Public Health University of Teheran	WHO Immunology Research and Training Centre	Dr F. Modabber	1978
21.	"	Lebanon	Division of Dermatology Department of Internal Medicine American University of Beirut	WHO Immunology Research and Training Centre	Dr F.S. Farah	1970
22.	Health of Working Populations	Egypt	Department of Occupational Health High Institute of Public Health University of Alexandria	WHO Collab. Institution for Occupational Health	Prof. M.H. Noweir	1972
23.	"	Sudan	Occupational Health Division Ministry of Health Khartoum	WHO Collab. Institution for Occupational Health	Dr Yousif Osman	1972

Serie no.	Programme	Country	Name of Institution	Title of WHO Collaborating Centre	Director of Centre	Year of designation
24.	Provision of Basic Sanitary Measures	Egypt	Sanitary Engineering Department Faculty of Engineering Univ. of Alexandria	WHO CC for WD	Prof. Dr Mohamed Sadek El-Adawy	
25.	"	"	"	WHO CC for CWS	"	
26.	"	Iran	Institute of Hydro-Sciences and Water Resource Technology Univ. of Teheran	WHO CC for CWS		
27.	"	"	Institute of Public Health Research and School of Public Health Univ. of Teheran	WHO CC for WD	Dr A. Nadim	
28.	"	Israel	Environmental Health Lab. Division of Human Environmental Sciences Hadassah Medical School Hebrew University Jerusalem	WHO CC for CWS and MEDPOL	Prof. Hillel I. Shuval	
29.	"	"	"	WHO CC for WD	"	
30.	"	"	Environmental Engineering Research Centre Technicon Israel Institute of Technology Haifa	WHO CC for WD and MEDPOL	Prof. Menahem Rebhun	
31.	"	Pakistan	Institute of Public Health Engineering and Research University of Engineering and Technology Lahore	WHO CC for Public Health Engineering	Dr M. Nawaz Tariq	1977

Serial no.	Programme	Country	Name of Institution	Title of WHO Collaborating Centre	Director of Centre	Year of designation
32.	Provision of Basic Sanitary Measures (Cont'd)	Sudan	Faculty of Engineering and Architecture University of Khartoum	WHO CC for CWS	Dr Dafalla Bedawi Babiker	
33.	Food Safety Programme	Egypt	Sanitary Chemistry Laboratories Central Laboratories General Administration Ministry of Health Cairo	FAO/WHO CC on Food Contamination Monitoring	Dr Hassan H. Hassanein	1977
34.	Development of Health Statistical Services	Egypt	High Institute of Public Health University of Alexandria	WHO CC for Health Records	M. El-Amin Abdel-Fattah	1977

TABLE II.

WHO Collaborating Centres in the Eastern Mediterranean  
Region  
(by programme and country)

	Egypt	Iran	Israel	Lebanon	Pakistan	Sudan	Total
Family Health (HRP)	1		1		1		3
Health Manpower Development (HMD)		2	1				3
Malaria and Parasitic Diseases			1		1		2
Viral Diseases	1	1					2
Veterinary Public Health		2	1				3
Cardiovascular Diseases		1	1				2
Mental Health	1						1
Radiation Health		2					2
Immunology		1	1	1			3
Occupational Health	1					1	2
Provision of Basic Sanitary Measures	2	2	3		1	1	9
Food Safety Programmes	1						1
Health Statistics	1						1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	8	11	9	1	3	2	34