



International Science and Technology Institute, Inc.

Evaluation of Cooperation Activities

**Epidemiology and Control
of Vector-Borne Diseases
Project - Egypt/Israel**

Submitted to:

**United States Agency for International Development
ANE/TR/HPN**

by:

**Richard Huntington
International Science and Technology Institute, Inc.
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1. Summary

The project is very successful in terms of its cooperative and institution-building aspects. The number, range, and quality of the cooperative activities have exceeded the original expectations of the Israeli and Egyptian participants, in spite of the decline during this period of relations between their two nations.

Success is due to the following factors, which largely mirror the appraisal criteria for such projects originally set forth by AID.

The Project deals with **real scientific and health problems of mutual concern**. These diseases spread across borders and call for continuing cooperation between neighbors. The direct mutual advantages of such cooperation are significant and apparent.

It is based primarily on **cooperation** between Israel and Egypt - **not technical assistance** from Israel to Egypt.

The Project is **institutionalized** in both countries - in prestigious universities, one step removed from government. Also in each country, the project involves researchers from other universities, ministries, and research organizations.

Project is perceived in both countries to be **producing high quality scientific research of practical importance**.

The cooperation accomplishments of the ECUBD Project are significant. The highlights are two highly publicized conferences, one in Egypt and one in Israel, a combined Israeli/Egyptian team's successful response to a small medical emergency in Egypt, workshops and lectures given at Ain Shams University by Israeli scientists, five jointly authored papers published in leading international journals, and a genuine creation and strengthening of a long-term network of personal and institutional scientific ties between Israel and Egypt.

2. Introduction

As part of the overall evaluation of the project for the Epidemiology and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in Egypt and Israel, AID/ANE/TR/HPN requested the International Science and Technology Institute, Inc. to examine the institutional and cooperative aspects of the project. This report to be submitted to AID in addition to the scientific evaluation organized by and for NIAID. Richard Huntington, a social scientist with prior experience with AID funded projects in Egypt and in the West Bank and Gaza, met with the NIAID evaluation team during its visit to Israel (September 9-13) and then spent five days independently in Egypt (September 13-18). Huntington worked closely with Nicolas Studzinski, the project officer, and with Dr. Alfred Buck, the AID observer on the NIAID evaluation team.

In Israel, Huntington and Studzinski divided their time between attending the scientific presentations and discussions, and interviewing individuals on aspects relevant to cooperation with Egypt. Specifically, interviews were conducted with Rachel Galun, the principal investigator; Moshe Amir, the Hebrew University "contracting officer" responsible for the project; William Brew, U.S. Embassy, Tel Aviv; Sanford Kuvin, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuvin Centre; Don Michaeli, Deputy Secretary of Health; as well as Dr. Joel Margalit and other principals at Ben Gurion University.

In Egypt, Huntington interviewed every one of the senior and junior researchers involved with the project, as well as senior researchers from cooperating institutions, especially from Suez Canal University and from the Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Agriculture. At Ain Shams University Huntington met with Mr. Alfons Hanna, Dir. General of University Finance and project contracting officer; and project administrative staff persons responsible for the project's budgetary records, vouchers, personnel records, etc.

At the U.S. Embassy, Huntington interviewed Robert Carr, Science Attache. At AID, Huntington interviewed William Oldham of the Health Office, Theresa Ware of the Program Office (member of the joint AID/Embassy Committee on Regional Cooperation Projects), and Robert Beausoleil in the Agriculture Office (responsible for the Regional Cooperation Project on "Agriculture for Bedouin Communities

of Israel and Egypt).

Studzinski and Huntington met with Dr. Mahmoud Mahfouz, former Minister of Health and strong supporter of regional cooperation, and the Principal Investigator, Sherif El Said.

3. Regional Cooperation Program - Background and Appraisal Criteria

The genesis of the regional cooperation program was the desire of Congress to have USAID set aside money to support cooperative research in a variety of disciplines between Israel and its Arab neighbors. USAID carried out an extensive feasibility study, calling upon the services of over 15 consultants familiar with the region to produce reports specifying the most likely cooperative activities in all sectors. USAID then drew up a brief "Criteria for Appraisal of Regional Cooperation Project Proposals" which has served as a guideline for project development and selection. These criteria may be summarized as follows:

Goals:

The overall program goal is to develop linkages, create common interests, and promote better knowledge and understanding between Israel and its neighbors, as well as serve the developmental needs of the participating countries.

The criteria stress regional cooperation (Israel and its Arab neighbors) as much as purely Israeli/Egyptian cooperation.

Activities must involve subject areas in which it is appropriate to have regional cooperation. The activity should involve a regional problem or be particularly useful as a joint activity because of complementary capabilities, mutual interests, or shared needs.

Participants:

Projects must involve the active participation of individuals and institutions in at least one Arab country and Israel.

Projects should involve the active participation of significant Middle Eastern institutions, rather than of individuals acting largely on their own behalf. Projects must be consistent with the

laws and regulations of the host governments and institutions, and must have all official approvals.

Projects must be technically viable and involve institutions and individuals demonstrably competent to carry out the program.

Participating institutions should make meaningful contributions either in cash or in kind.

U.S. institutions should participate in a facilitative role.

Outputs:

Projects must involve meaningful contacts between the participants and carry out activities which lead to **sustained linkages**.

Projects should create precedents for future cooperation activities. Priority is to be given to proposals that break new ground, that introduce new groups of people to the process of cooperation.

Project should serve as symbols of the reality and potentiality of peaceful cooperation. They should be "people to people" activities which maximize public awareness and spread effects as much as possible within the framework of the political realities.

Projects should produce cooperative activities and research. Purely technical assistance projects are not eligible.

4. Assessment of the Appraisal Criteria Document

These criteria for project selection are extremely demanding, and they represent a sensitivity to the difficult political realities of the Middle East.

It is important that projects be of the highest quality and above suspicion as boondoggles or as easy money trying to buy a political end. Related to this, the projects must be especially appropriate as cooperation activities. Israelis and Egyptians could theoretically cooperate on almost any activity; but to be part of this program, the

activity must be one that is demonstrably improved by cooperation between the neighbors. The successful regional cooperation project topics to date stand as examples. Marine ecology and biology, arid lands development, and vector-borne disease control all relate in different ways to aspects of the shared borders between the two countries.

The criteria also stress a careful balance and occasional trade-offs between the purely Israeli/Egyptian activities and more broadly regional cooperation activities; between high profile "symbols of peaceful cooperation" and substantial scientific activities; between elite research and broad development priorities as represented by the regulations of the host countries and the AID program strategy in the country (Egypt).

Do the original criteria remain appropriate? The overall diplomatic climate between Egypt and Israel has deteriorated during the last few years, and with it, there has been a concomitant decline of the political acceptability of Israeli-Egyptian cooperation activities within Egypt. The strict appraisal criteria, which might have been loosened under a more favorable political situation, remain essential. Sadly, their appropriateness has increased.

Is the original document on Appraisal Criteria sufficiently clear and detailed? Yes and no. The "Appraisal Criteria" document itself is brief and demands some reading between the lines. This brevity and lack of specificity do not harm the operation of this project, however. All of the participants in the ECUD Project - Americans, Egyptians, Israelis; scientists and bureaucrats - are quite clear and articulate about the cooperation aspects of the project, the constraints under which they must operate, and the reasons for the strictures of the appraisal criteria.

It would be useful to update the document in light of the experiences of the past several years. This may help to generate new projects, and to discourage some of the more inappropriate proposals that might otherwise be submitted. One important aspect which has evolved is the role of an American institution. The document spoke vaguely about a possible facilitative role for an American institution. But the program has developed into much more of a three-way

institutional structure with the American institution taking a stronger and contractually more formal role than was originally envisioned.

As part of updating the document on appraisal criteria, AID needs to consider improving its mechanisms for developing future regional cooperation projects.

The current document rules out funding for conferences or meetings devoted to proposal development. Yet the participants of the ECUBD project stress the importance of several conferences (including a conference focusing on regional cooperation in health, held at the Bellagio Conference Center in May, 1981) which helped set priorities for appropriate health areas for regional cooperation funding. While it may not be appropriate for AID to fund specifically a meeting to develop future proposals to be submitted back to AID, certain conference mechanisms would be appropriate and would probably yield one or two high quality projects in support of the regional cooperation goals.

One of the recommendations of this evaluation report is that AID organize a workshop to include the participants of the several regional cooperation projects. Such a workshop could, as part of its mandate help sow the seeds for future cooperation projects in adjacent scientific areas. Such a workshop could also help indicate the extent and directions of the modifications of the "Appraisal Criteria" document in light of the past few years' experiences.

5. Epidemiology and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases Project

The project is a five year project (September 30, 1981 - October 1, 1986) funded at a total of approximately \$7 million. It is organized and funded through a PASA between AID and the NIH (PASA No. BNE-0165-P-H2-1106-02), and through two NIH contracts with Hebrew University (NIH-NIAID-AI-22668) in Jerusalem, and Ain Shams University (NIH-NIAID-N01-AI-22667) in Cairo, respectively.

This joint Egypt/Israel project grew out of the long association of NIAID with Egypt. Since 1979, two projects (malaria and filariasis) were carried out at Ain Shams University under a PL 480 grant with the supervision of the NIH. Dr. Robert Gwadz was the project officer

for NIH and the studies were conducted by scientists in the Department of Entomology at Ain Shams University.

Dr. Gwadz organized a meeting between Ain Shams and Hebrew University scientists at the NIH in January 1980 to explore the possibility of developing a "cooperative" project. The meeting was attended by Drs. Sherif El Said and Adel Merdan (Ain Shams), Dr. Charles Greenblatt and Dr. Sanford Kuvin (Kuvin Centre for the Study of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School), Drs. Gwadz and Carl Western from NIH.

As a result of the meeting, a general proposal was formulated to investigate jointly three vector-borne diseases in the Middle East: malaria, Rift Valley fever, and leishmaniasis. The three diseases were chosen for a number of reasons, including the following:

All three diseases are vector-borne. The Ain Shams group was composed primarily of medical entomologists with particular expertise in field studies of insect vectors.

Rift Valley fever (RVF) had devastated Egypt in 1977-78 with several hundred thousand human cases and extensive loss of livestock. RVF posed a potential threat to Israel and to the whole Mediterranean basin.

Malaria had a long history in Egypt with occasional major epidemics and was already under study by Ain Shams scientists. Although the disease had been eradicated from Israel, malaria was a major research interest of the Kuvin Centre and anopheline vectors are present in Israel.

Cutaneous leishmaniasis is a major problem in Israel. In Egypt, cutaneous leishmaniasis was not well documented and visceral leishmaniasis was unknown. The regular return of Egyptian laborers from endemic areas in the Middle East provided a recurring potential source of infection to phlebotomines in Egypt. In addition, the return of Sinai to Egypt was imminent in 1980 and this area was known to be endemic for cutaneous leishmaniasis.

USAID agreed to support the project for five years at a level of \$7

million. The award was made to NIAID under the terms of a Participating Agency Service Agreement (PASAI) between the PHS and USAID. Dr. Karl Western is NIAID Project Officer, and Dr. Hortencia Hornbeak is Co-Project Officer. Dr. Robert Gwadz is the senior scientist, and formerly the project officer for the preceding PL 480 research projects at the Ain Shams Centre. Two researchers from NIAID, Dr. Fred Feinsod and Dr. John Beier were in residence at Ain Shams University. Dr. Sherif El Said is Principal Investigator of the Egyptian segment, and Dr. Rachel Galun is Principal Investigator of the Israeli segment.

6. Cooperation Accomplishments

The cooperation accomplishments of the ECUBD Project are significant. The highlights are two highly publicized conferences, one in Egypt and one in Israel, a combined Israeli/Egyptian team's successful response to a small medical emergency in Egypt, workshops and lectures given at Ain Shams University by Israeli scientists, thirteen visits by Israeli scientists to Ain Shams University, five jointly authored papers published in leading international journals, and a genuine creation and strengthening of a long-term network of personal and institutional scientific ties between Israel and Egypt.

Cooperative Research

The **leishmaniasis** program has to date been the locus of the most thorough cooperation between the Israeli and Egyptian research centers.

At the first visits of Israelis to the Ain Shams Center, there were those who closed their doors and refused to have any contact with Israelis. These reactions changed over time, and the presence of Israeli colleagues is now viewed as a normal event within the center. There are still one or two researchers who personally disagree with the idea of cooperation with Israelis, however they state that since it is clearly the policy of their government it is their duty to participate.

The unexpected outbreak of visceral leishmaniasis in El Agamy provided an opportunity for the demonstration of the practical value of cooperative work. Even though the Leishmaniasis outbreak took place during the period immediately following the Israeli invasion of

Lebanon and at a time of extremely frosty relations between the two nations, permission was granted for Israeli members of the leishmaniasis group to join their colleagues in Egypt. This cooperation led to the identification of a new strain of fatal leishmaniasis and to the dissemination to the local health authorities of information necessary to monitor and respond to further cases. This was the first time that the ministry of health called upon the Ain Shams Center to handle a public health problem. It brought attention within the GDE ministry of Health and credit to the Center, the Project, and highlighted the importance of Egyptian-Israeli cooperation.

Cooperation on **malaria** and **Rift Valley fever** has been less dramatic, although there are important mutual relationships. The Kuvin Centre is one of the foremost centers of malaria research in the world, but must bring blood samples from outside Israel for its research, since the disease has been absent locally for over twenty years. Egypt is potentially a close and convenient field site for Israeli research and a convenient source for securing samples.

Currently, the two centers have a joint project to compare the standard diagnostic tests used in Egypt with new rapid "dot test" for malaria antigen and antibody that have been developed by the Kuvin center. As part of this research, Egyptian researchers collect duplicate blood samples and send one set to the Kuvin Centre in Jerusalem.

Also regarding malaria, there is the "parallel" research on mosquito habitats in Sinai (done by Suez Canal University in collaboration with the Ain Shams Center) and in the Negev (done by Ben Gurion University under subcontract to the Kuvin Centre).

There is a desire on the part of both Egyptian and Israeli researchers to take their cooperation on malaria further. Dr. Adel Merdan (Ain Shams) and Dr. Joel Margalit (Ben Gurion) have prepared a joint proposal (separate from the NIAID project) for a study of larvæcidal control measures. It is important to note that Ain Shams University objected to having an Israeli listed as co-principal investigator. In order to secure approval, it was necessary to remove Dr. Margalit's name from the cover, and to list him within the proposal as "consultant".

There is a trend toward more thoroughly cooperative research in which the Israeli and Egyptian scientists draw up **joint research protocols** involving significant cooperation at all steps, and concluding with the joint publication of the results. Copies of two of these protocols drawn up in late 1984 and currently in effect are included as annexes 2 and 3. The participants on both sides express a willingness and desire to work on even more elaborately planned joint programs in the future.

Israeli Workshop/Demonstration at Ain Shams University

Drs. Schnur and Schlein of the Kuvim Centre visited Ain Shams University several times, both to cooperate in the planning of the research, and to provide "public" demonstrations of new methods of culturing and typing of Leishmania parasites. These 10-day workshops were under the joint sponsorship of the Ain Shams center and the Egyptian Ministry of Health. Participants represented various departments within Ain Shams University, other Egyptian universities, and the Ministries of Health and Agriculture. The letter of invitation and program for one of these workshops is included in the annexes. Another demonstration was conducted by Dr. Schnur for the younger scientists within the Ain Shams Research and Training Center on Vectors of Diseases.

Joint Publications

The Regional Cooperation project has led to twelve joint Egyptian/Israeli publications in leading international journals. There have also been twelve joint presentations at international scientific conferences.

Conferences

Aswan Conference. The 2nd International Conference on the Epidemiology and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in The Near East was held in Aswan, Egypt, October 2-6, 1983. The Israeli participation in the program, combined with the presence of scientists from Arab countries made it a landmark occasion in scientific cooperation. Observers and participants remark on the extraordinary emotional tenor of conference- many public warm and emotional exchanges between Egyptians and Israelis, hugging and kissing.

Another aspect that is important is that the Egyptian presentations were well done and effective; they had been rehearsed with visual aids. These effective presentations reinforced the image of truly cooperative research among scientists of equal standing.

Some of the problems at the Aswan conference reveal important aspects of the regional cooperation effort. The opening of the conference was heavily covered by Egyptian Television. The presence of Israelis and the on-going association between Ain Shams University and Hebrew University were not specifically noted by any of the Egyptian speakers who addressed the opening session. None the less, Israelis did appear in televised camera shots of the conference and its panels.

The political officer from the Israeli Embassy in Cairo requested at the last moment that he be given a chance to address the opening session in order to emphasize the role of Israel. This request was denied. Any higher profile for the Israeli participation was clearly not acceptable to the Egyptian government. Had the issue been pushed any further, it may have undercut continued government "support" of the regional cooperation program in Egypt or led to a public exodus from the conference on the part of other Arab and perhaps some Egyptian participants.

The Shores Conference in Israel (May 1985). Two researchers from Ain Shams, Drs. Sherif El Said and Adel Gad attended the conference. This was the first time senior Egyptian medical researchers attended such a conference in Israel.

There were originally ten Egyptian researchers on the program and willing to attend the conference. This alone is a significant accomplishment in Egypt. The Egyptian government (Ministries of Health, Education, and Foreign Affairs, and the Office of The Prime Minister) finally granted permission for four researchers (Two medical doctors and two university researchers) to attend the conference. Just before the departure, it seems that the Medical Syndicate exerted indirect pressure on the medical doctors and they withdrew. The conference was heavily covered by the media in Israel.

One of the impediments to Egyptian participation in activities in Israel is the fear that this will later prohibit them from taking up work in Arab countries. Dr. Adel Gad, shortly after attending the Shores Conference, was invited to work in Saudi Arabia and has taken a leave from the project to do so. This demonstration that cooperation with Israel does not necessarily block future career opportunities in Arab countries is one of the important results of the Shores Conference.

None the less, the constraints on Egyptian participation in ECUBD events held in Israel remain substantial. By contrast The regional projects within the Ministry of Agriculture have an easier time receiving government clearance for such travel. The situation there is very different. The Minister of Agriculture, Yusef Wali, is a strong supporter of cooperation and a significant power in Egyptian national politics and government approval of such visits are almost automatic, since it is a matter of government business.

Cooperation Goals

It would be naive to expect a relatively small project such as this to have a significant impact upon relations in the Middle East. It is important to review the program goal as originally stated in the "Appraisal Criteria" and consider whether the project meets this goal and whether the goal itself still seems reasonable.

"The goal of the program is to further the Middle East peace process by encouraging and supporting the normalization of relations between Israel and it's Arab neighbors....This goal is to be accomplished through regional projects which contribute to the development of networks of ties and linkages between the countries, sustained personal and institutional contacts, stronger perceptions of the reality and benefits of peace, and better understandings and communications among Middle Eastern peoples."

This goal is cautiously and reasonably stated. The regional cooperation projects are intended to "*encourage...the normalization of relations*" and "*contribute to the development of networks...*" As such, these projects are a small but important part of an overall process of improving relations between former enemies. The fact that other aspects of this normalization process have fallen far behind the

progress of these regional cooperation projects does not invalidate the program goals.

The creating of networks and the encouragement of normalization embodied in the regional cooperation program constitute a necessary but certainly not a sufficient contribution to peaceful relations.

7. Institutionalization of Projects

Egypt

The Research and Training Center For Vectors of Diseases is one of the most effectively and efficiently run institutions of any kind in the country. There is a commitment to excellence in all matters, large and small, which is commendable and rare. Visitors, Egyptian and foreign, cannot help but be impressed, and this aura of excellence adds credence to the commitment to regional cooperation.

The Center is itself a relatively large operation including about one hundred senior investigators, senior assistants, senior technicians, consultants, project leaders and administrative personnel; and another fifty support personnel such as junior technicians, lab aids, drivers, secretaries, etc.

A relatively large number (20) of younger researchers, students and technicians are directly participating in the cooperative research project. Four M.Sc. theses have been completed under the project, and there are currently three Ph.D. theses and thirteen M.Sc. theses in progress.

The Egyptian segment of the project formally involves a large number (10) of Egyptian institutions and governmental ministries. Most important, the project has formal research and cooperating agreements with both Alexandria University (Higher Institute for Public Health) and with Suez Canal University.

Of particular importance, as part of the Rift Valley fever program, representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture's veterinary service are meeting periodically and cooperating with medical authorities from the Ministry of Health. This is an important and rare sort of inter ministerial cooperation within the context of the Egyptian

bureaucracy.

Israel

The prestigious Kuvin Centre for the Study of Infectious and Tropical Diseases involves senior researchers from a number of faculties at the Hadassah Medical Center at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

To date, eight students have received their M.Sc. degrees based on work done under the cooperative project. Currently, seven Ph.D. candidates are working with the project as well as four medical entomologists. There are also seven undergraduates and two technical trainees working on the project.

Hebrew University subcontracts 30% of its budget to support malaria research conducted by Ben Gurion University. Ben Gurion is a regional and community type of university located in Beer Sheva with a focus on training and building up a local research capacity for the Negev area which borders on Egypt.

8. Regional Cooperation: Issues and Possibilities

The Egyptian and Israeli participants in this project share the same ultimate dream. They are dedicated to the achievement of full scientific cooperation in every respect. Equally, they are dedicated to contributing, as scientists and citizens to the achievement of peace in their region of the world. The fully accomplished dream would involve a free and frequent exchange of information and materials, fully cooperative research, jointly designed and funded with Israeli and Egyptian scientists working together in the field and laboratories with shared data bases and producing jointly authored scientific papers. The full dream envisions students studying at the universities of the other country and receiving degrees.

In the meantime, a certain **range of possible activities** is envisioned in the Appraisal Criteria. This range allows a flexible response to changing conditions. It is important that this range of activities be kept in mind during the inevitably shifting political currents.

At one end of the range, are the minimal, low profile types of cooperation, which, none the less should not be underestimated. If due to political constraints, Israeli and Egyptian scientists must be limited to parallel research to be compared and exchanged when they meet congenially at international conferences, this would be none the less a positive exchange. If slightly more formally, they plan parallel research, the results of which they know should be mutually reinforcing, this is a stronger approach.

Stronger still, is a mutual research project which specifies the roles and responsibilities of each party, utilizing the laboratory techniques developed at the Kuvin center and the field techniques developed by the scientists at Ain Shams, to produce a jointly authored paper, jointly presented at conferences held in Israel or Egypt.

Ultimately, a long term, fully cooperative joint research program might be mapped out, sharing a combined data base, and involving training of a small cadres of graduate students from both countries to work on a single scientific problem of importance to the region. All of these levels of cooperation make important contributions to creating a permanent personal and institutional scientific network.

The parties to this cooperative project have somewhat **different priorities** and pressures in the short term, largely as a result of different domestic political climates. To the credit of all the participants, they express considerable sympathy for the political contexts of their colleagues across the border. However, they do not seem to understand the political scene in the other country as well as they might. For instance, the Israeli scientists tend to blame anti-Israeli sentiments on the actions of Egyptian radicals and Moslem fundamentalists, rather than appreciate that within Egypt such sentiments have a broad base of support more analagous to the conservative Likud coalition in Israel than to the followers of the radical Kahane.

Israeli researchers are anxious that the most publicized aspects of cooperation take place. They tend to be disappointed but "understanding" when Egyptian visits to Israel are cancelled or reduced, or when their own trips to Egypt are restricted or assiduously unpublicized. Their participation in such a program is

justifiable at home by these public breakthroughs in Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Egyptian participants are in almost a reverse situation. Their participation is justified by their role as equals in a world class scientific research program that is of demonstrable benefit to the well-being of the Egyptian population. Publicity which focuses on visits by Israelis to Egypt, or by Egyptians to Israel is an anathema to the Egyptian program. Such publicity appears to many Egyptians like a political show reinforcing Israeli and American Middle East policy at the expense of Egyptian "independence".

Important to the Egyptians are results - proof that the cooperative project is of great practical and scientific importance, especially medical importance. For this reason, the events surrounding the outbreak of leishmaniasis at El Agamy are important. One could say that Egyptian lives were potentially saved through the **cooperative response** to the crisis.

Also important to the Egyptians, is placing the cooperation with Israelis within a broader regional context. An important aspect of the Aswan conference was that it was a regional conference which included Israelis and representatives of other Arab countries in Egypt. This is not an easy sort of event to bring about in the Middle East. The presence of the Israelis had to be de-emphasized in order to allow the participation of Sudanese, Jordanians, and others. There are trade-offs between high profile bilateral activities and broader regional activities.

The project and **Egyptian political realities**. The project is more problematical within Egypt than in Israel. Within Egypt, the regional cooperation projects are, in a sense, out ahead of general government policy regarding relations with Israel. Although the project activities are all approved by the government, they are exceptional in the current political climate, which has changed markedly since the inception of the regional cooperation projects. Before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, there were over 50 bilateral activities between Egypt and Israel in the process of being approved, many of them involving considerable publicity, exchange of people, etc. All of these plans were put on hold, and the few regional cooperation projects are

almost the only "people to people" type exchanges still occurring.

There is no general policy of the Egyptian government to foster these regional cooperation projects. Each of the project depends on the support of its own ministries and its own efforts to get each activity approved. Projects which are located within an Egyptian line ministry have an easier time than projects such as the ECUBD project which is based outside a specific ministry. As a university-based, health oriented project the ECUBD must approach the government through two ministries, Education and Health, neither one of which has any particular incentive to be overly supportive. The Ministry of Education has a certain disincentive because university based programs are possible targets for public student protest. None the less, the administration of Ain Shams University, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Health have all approved all project activities, including the proposed visits of Egyptian researchers to a conference in Israel.

The only area of disappointment regarding the cooperative aspects of the project is that the project remains relatively low profile in Egypt, rather than engaging in the kind of publicity originally hoped for. This results largely from the deteriorating relations between Egypt and Israel since Israel's invasion of Lebanon. **The Egyptian participants in the project are the best judges of what is an appropriate level of "publicity" for the project within Egypt** - the level that maximizes the contribution to peace without discrediting the program of scientific cooperation.

The continuing **role of U.S. institutions** (NIAID, AID) as third party to Egyptian-Israeli cooperation is important, and from the Egyptian perspective, mandatory. Early in the program it was recognized that mechanism for cooperation would have to be one in which an American institution signs parallel agreements with Egyptian and Israeli institutions. This is particularly important in Egypt, allowing the Israeli connection to be emphasized or de-emphasized according to the situation. Furthermore, in any collaborative project tensions over arrangements and budgets are normal. The tri-national approach shifts some of these tensions to the American institution, thus removing the chance that such tensions undermine the very cooperation the program is meant to foster. Ironically, shared

frustrations over minor budgetary matters emanating from NIAID and USAID sometimes bring Israeli and Egyptian principals closer together.

9. Relevance to Development Goals

Some argue that the three diseases - Rift Valley fever, malaria, leishmaniasis - are hardly the major public health problems in either country, and that, especially in Egypt, there are huge public health problems that need expert attention. There are a number of aspects of this issue to consider.

a. Although the diseases do not constitute the principal causes of mortality in either country, they do present real dangers and potential threats. For instance, one cannot predict that Rift Valley fever will not return to the area. Such diseases go in cycles. Indeed, the surveillance activities funded under this project indicate that there is no longer any natural immunity within the livestock population of Egypt. Malaria has been unexpectedly re-introduced into Israel as a result of the arrival of the Ethiopian Jews. The outbreak of visceral leishmaniasis in El Agamy was a surprise. The planned road between Egypt and Sudan may bring more surprise outbreaks of malaria and other human and animal diseases.

b. The project has built up an impressive generalized capability to respond to an unknown viral infection, identify it, advise the Ministry of Health of appropriate measures. This applied research capability, developed as a result of the joint work on the leishmaniasis outbreak, could prove useful in the future for diseases other than those currently supported.

c. The project has recently added filariasis, an important "urban" disease present in both countries, which is recognized as the most important vector-borne disease in Egypt. This, along with the inclusion of research on rickettsial diseases, will broaden the public health relevance of the project without diluting the excellence of the research or moving the project away from its

focus on vector-borne diseases.

d. As stated above, one reason for the success of the project in Egypt is that it produces "good science", at an unusually fine facility, in a university setting. The project may in time become more involved in research pertaining directly to the control of these four diseases. It may also in time become concerned with diseases that harm a greater number of people. But there is no reason why it must quickly expand in these directions in order to fulfil the mandate of the regional cooperation program, or to produce excellent and important scientific work.

e. Proportion. These three diseases are not at the heart of the AID health program in Egypt which is investing many millions in "child survival" programs, on oral rehydration therapy, immunization, and other efficacious child-saving interventions, and population control. It is also important that the Ain Shams program does not duplicate work being done under other projects. The amount of AID funding for this Egyptian project dealing with malaria, leishmaniasis, and Rift Valley fever is an appropriately small proportion of the total AID health portfolio in Egypt.

10. Recommendations

1. The **project should continue**, largely under the current arrangements and mechanisms.

2. Regarding **high profile Israeli/Egyptian activities**, the recommendation is that these **not be pushed upon the institutions** as conditions of the project. The Egyptian and Israeli researchers can best determine the extent to which cooperation is feasible within the changing political and diplomatic matrix of the Middle East. Currently, this means that currently Dr. Sherif El Said is in the *de facto* position of judging within the project the immediate limits of such activities. In the future, the political situation may alter so that it is in Israel that the project becomes politically sensitive, and it will then need to rely on Dr. Rachel Galun in these matters.

3. **AID/Washington should play a more active role** in project management, especially regarding the cooperation aspects. AID, via NIAID should encourage and facilitate more comprehensive joint research planning by the Egyptian and Israeli research institutions, and see that such encouragement is reflected in the planning and budgeting process. AID project management should also periodically assess the progress and the climate for cooperation.

4. In Cairo, **coordination between AID and the U.S. Embassy needs to be improved.** At present, responsibility gets tossed back and forth a bit between the U.S. Embassy and AID, although officers in both AID and the Embassy have been helpful and supportive. There is no simple solution since as an NIH activity, the project is the responsibility of the Science attaché, and as a centrally funded AID activity the AID mission has certain responsibilities.

5. **More specific authority over certain institutional budget line items should be granted to the Israeli and Egyptian principal investigators.** In particular, control over certain funds (some of the travel, for instance) should be decentralized under the next grant. The continued role of NIAID is essential, and NIAID has the heavy responsibility for managing the contracts with the Israeli and Egyptian counterpart institutions, and for maintaining the highest standards of research and safety (with the completion of the P3 facility).

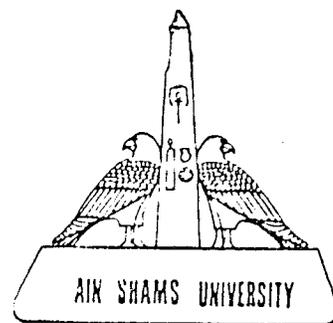
6. AID should **revise and expand its document "Criteria for Appraisal of Regional Cooperation Project Proposals"** to incorporate some of the developments and lessons learned over the past few years. The basic tenets of the document remain sound, but the program has evolved so that some items which were presented elliptically could now be spelled out more fully in light of recent experience. A revision of the document might help AID identify appropriate projects, on one hand, and signal more clearly what sorts of activities are definitely inappropriate.

7. There should be **communication among different regional communication projects.** Because of the political sensitivity, problems with one project could harm the others. Vice versa, sharing

experiences of handling some of the tricky aspects of the cooperative work could be beneficial to all. At present, the Egyptian and Israeli participants, the American contractors, and the responsible AID project officers have little information about projects other than their own. There are a number of ways to facilitate such communication. One relatively expensive mechanism would be to bring together the American, Egyptian, and Israeli principals for a workshop in the United States. One important output of such an activity (discussed in section 3 of this report) might be the identification of other appropriate areas and institutions for cooperative funding. Also a formal workshop reviewing the actual experiences of participants could contribute information and perspectives useful to producing an expanded and updated version of the "Appraisal Criteria" (recommendation 6).

ANNEX 1

Leishmania Typing Workshop at Ain Shams by Dr. L. Schnur



in reply refer:

Workshop:

Organizing Committee:

- P.Dr. Al-Motez Bellah Mobarak. First Under Secretary, MOH
- P.Dr. Mohamed Ali Rifaat. Project Leader (Leishmania)
Director of the Center
- P.Dr. Adel Ibrahim Merdan. Project Leader (Entomology)
Deputy Director of Center
- P.Dr. Aly Massoud. Project Leader (Epidemiology)
- P.Dr. Tosson Aly Morsy. Coordinator (Leishmania)
- P.Dr. Magda Youssef. Senior Investigator (Leishmania)
- P.Dr. Samir Afram. Senior Investigator (Leishmania)
- Dr. Sherif El Said. Principal Investigator

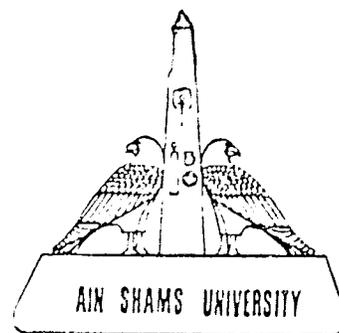
Participants

Department

Selected by

1.....	)	Epidemiology	)	P.Dr. Aly Massoud
2.....	)	Epidemiology)	
3.....	)	Parasitology, ASU	)	P.Dr. M.A. Rifaat
4.....	)	Center	)	P.Dr. F.A. Morsy
5.....		Parasitology, Alex.		P.Dr. Magda Youssef
6.....		Parasitology Dept	)	P.Dr. Magda Azab
7.....		Fac. Med. ASU)	
		MOA		P.Dr. S. Afram
8.....	)	NAMRU-3	)	Capt. C. Wallace
9.....	)	NAMRU-3)	

All participants and their professors must sign the invitation letter in order to participate in the workshop.



In reply refer:

WORKSHOP

=====

Speciation and Typing of *Leishmania donovani*

=====

August 1, 1983	9:30-10:30	General Lecture	Dr. Schnur
	11:30;13:00	Approach to techniques and rationale: - Histology - Animal culture - Culture in vitro	"
August 2, 1983	9:30-10:30	Demonstration: - Sterile technique - Autoclave - Lab note design	Dr. Schnur
	11:30-13:00	} - Culture media } - Subculture technique } - Incubator usage	"
	14:00-16:00		
August 3, 1983	9:30-10:00	Demonstration (Histo- logy)	P.Dr. Tosson
		Microscope care and usage	P.Dr. Afram
	11:00-12:30	Histology lab - Viewing of slides	P.Dr. Tosson P.Dr. Afram
	14:00-16:00	Preparing slides from: - Bone marrow aspirate - Culture tubes	P.Dr. Magda Youssef
August 4, 1983	9:30-10:30	Principles of typing/ AgP technique	Dr. Schnur
	11:30-13:00	} Laboratory - AgP	Dr. Schnur
	14:00-16:00		

Workshop
Page 2

August 5, 1983 (Friday)	10:30-12:00	Record AgP results	Dr. Schnur
August 6, 1983 (Saturday)	9:30-10:30	Principles of typing/ Iso enzyme analysis	"
	11:30-13:00	RIE demonstration	"
	14:00-16:00	Record final results	"
August 7, 1983 (Sunday)	9:30-10:30	Demonstration: Iso- enzyme analysis	"
	11:00-13:00			Set up Iso enzyme	"
	14:00-16:00	assay	"
August 8, 1983 (Monday)	9:30-10:30	RIE results (lab discussion)	"
	14:00-16:00	Refreshments	"
August 9, 1983 (Tuesday)	9:30	Prepare course report and recommendations	

MOH

Ain Shams Univ.

.....
 Dr. Al-Motez B. Mobarak

.....
 P. Dr. Mohamed A. Rifaat

.....
 Date

.....
 Date

.....
 P. Dr. Aly Massoud

.....
 Date

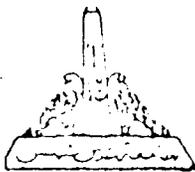
.....
 Dr. Sherif El Said

.....
 Date

ANNEX 2

**"Detection of Leishmania promastigotes in field-collected
sandflies by radio-immunoassay"**

Joint Protocol Between Ain Shams and Hebrew Universities



Epidemiology and Control of
Arthropod-Borne Diseases in
Egypt

NO1 AI 22667
NIH - NIAID

November 10, 1984.

Collaborative Research Agreement between

Ain Shams University, Research & Training Center on Vectors of Diseases
Abbassia, Cairo, Egypt

&

Hebrew University, Hadassah Medical School
The Kuvim Centre for the Study of Infectious & Tropical Diseases
Jerusalem, Israel

=====

Title of Joint Protocol: Detection of Leishmania promastigotes in field-collected sandflies by radio-immunoassay.

Under NIH Research Contract Number NO1 AI 22667-22668 the Ain Shams Center and the Kuvim Centre have been conducting research on Leishmaniasis, a disease affecting both Egypt and Israel. Efforts by the Ain Shams Center have focused on epidemiological studies of visceral leishmaniasis in El Agamy, Alexandria Governorate. Given the low rates of human and animal reservoir infections, it is not unusual that entomological studies have yet to find naturally-infected sandflies, despite hundreds of dissections. This remains a key point in documenting the epidemiology of this disease. The Kuvim Centre has developed a new radio-immunoassay technique that is capable of detecting Leishmania parasites in field-collected sandflies. While this does not replace dissection techniques, the value of the new technique is that large numbers of field-collected specimens can be screened

for parasites with less effort. Also, the test is sensitive for detecting few parasites per fly, and specific in that each fly can be screened for the presence of different Leishmania strains which may be present in an area. This collaborative agreement outlines a study to detect parasite-infected sandflies in El Agamy by testing them at both the Ain Shams and Kuvin Centers. This test will be established at the Ain Shams University through this collaborative effort.

1. The Ain Shams Center, from September - October, 1984, collected sandflies in El Agamy during regular field work and prepared for testing by the radio-immunoassay technique. Sandflies for this test were collected inside houses by aspiration and outside by sticky traps. The Center collected 2000 females.
2. Sandflies are preserved for the test in 96-well ELISA plates. For sandfly identification, the head of the fly is placed in one plate in alcohol, and the body is placed in a corresponding well of another plate. Plates will be sealed. The "heads" for identification will be held by the Center and the "bodies" will be sent to the Kuvin Centre for parasite screening. Records will be kept by the Centre to document the origin of each fly. Parasite-positive flies encountered during testing will be identified to species by head measurements.
3. The Ain Shams Center prepared positive and negative control sandflies for the test. Positive controls include sandflies experimentally infected with available Leishmania strains and negative controls are uninfected sandflies from colonies.

4. Sandflies will be sent to the Kuvin Centre individually tested using monoclonal antibodies prepared against Leishmania species known to occur in El Agamy. Positive flies will be reported to the Ain Shams Center, which will in turn complete species identification of the infected sandflies.

This project will benefit both parties if positive flies are detected in that the Ain Shams Center will be able to incriminate the sandfly vector(s) in El Agamy, and the Kuvin Centre will be able to field test the new technique, with appropriate controls.

Results of the agreement will be reported to the NIAID, and jointly published. Publication will follow only the signed agreement of all investigators. Authorship will be agreed upon by mutual consent of authors and Principal Investigators.

Training:

Techniques involved in the establishment of this technique were discussed during Dr. M. Londoner's visit to the Ain Shams Center (November 5-11, 1984). Following the establishment of this technique a training workshop can be given at the Ain Shams Center. This will provide experience to personnel at the Center to enable both Ain Shams Center and Kuvin Centre scientists to share opinions on a one to one basis. A joint workshop could be planned in the future based on the findings.

Investigators:

The Ain Shams University, Research and Training Center on Vectors of Diseases:

- Dr. Sherif El Said - Responsible for the overall coordination of both laboratory and field work.
- P.Dr. Tossou Morsy - Maintain and provide Leishmania cultures for sandfly infections.
- Dr. John C. Beier - Will assist with sandfly field collections and prepare infected sandflies for positive controls.
- Mr. Said Doha - Senior Technician)
- Mr. Shaban Ismail - Senior Technician) Will assist with for
- Mr. Hany Ahmed Kamal - Senior Technician) sandfly field collec-
- Miss Sanaa Abdel-Ghany - Senior Technician (will prepare sandflies for tions.
- Miss Sanaa Abdel-Ghany - Senior Technician (will prepare sandflies for testing)

The Hebrew University, The Kuvim Centre for Tropical and Infectious Diseases:

- Dr. Mauricio Londner - Test sandflies by the radio-immunoassay and take part in the Ain Shams Training Workshop(s).
- Dr. S. Frankenburg - Will test sandflies by the radio-immunoassay.

Ain Shams University,
Research & Training Center on
Vectors of Diseases:

Adel Mercan

.....
P.Dr. Adel Mercan
Director of the Center

Sherif El Saied 11/11/84

.....
Dr. Sherif El Saied
Principal Investigator,
No. N01 AI 22667

.....
P.Dr. Tossou Morsy
P.L., Parasitology-Leishmania

John C. Beier 15/11/84

.....
Dr. John Beier,
NIH Resident Consultant

Hebrew University,
The Kuvim Centre for the Study of
Infectious & Tropical Diseases:

.....
Dr. Dan Spira
Director of the Centre

.....
Dr. Rachel Galun
Principal Investigator,
No. N01 22668

Mauricio Londono

.....
Dr. Mauricio Londono
Head, Diagnostic Unit

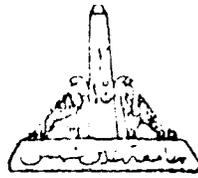
Reviewed by NIH/NIAID:

.....
Dr. Karl Western,
Project Officer

ANNEX 3

"Rapid malaria diagnosis: The 'dot test' for antigen and antibody compared to standard thick film and IFA"

A Joint Protocol Between Ain Shams and Hebrew Universities



Epidemiology and Control of
Arthropod-Borne Diseases in
Egypt

NO1 AI 22667
NIH - NIAID

November 10, 1984.

Collaborative Research Agreement between

Ain Shams University, Research & Training Center on Vectors of Diseases
Abbassia, Cairo, Egypt

&

Hebrew University, Hadassah Medical School,
The Kuvim Centre for the Study of Infectious & Tropical Diseases
Jerusalem, Israel

=====

Title of Joint Protocol: Rapid malaria diagnosis: The "dot test" for antigen and antibody compared to standard thick film and IFA.

Under NIH Research Contract Number NO1 AI 22667-22668 the Ain Shams Center and the Kuvim Centre have been conducting research on Malaria. Efforts by the Ain Shams Center have focused on epidemiological studies in several endemic foci throughout the country. Recently, a large-scale longitudinal study was completed in Faiyum Governorate. Thick film and IFA tests have been completed and data are being analysed. Both Plasmodium falciparum and P. vivax were found at low rates, yet fairly high antibody prevalence. A main question is how can malaria be maintained at a hypoendemic level in some villages, while this disease is disappearing in others. Perhaps a more sensitive assay for malaria antigen could prove useful in determining low-grade infections. Low-grade infections are common in Egypt and a more sensitive diagnostic technique is needed. The Kuvim Centre has recently

developed the "dot test", which is capable of detecting both malaria antigen and antibody. Principles are similar to the ELISA, yet standard equipment is unnecessary since a color reaction indicates positivity. The technique should be more sensitive for Ag detection than the thick smear test, and should also be more sensitive than IFA for Ab detection. This technique, if proved effective, will provide a simple more sensitive tool for rapid malaria diagnosis, with the advantage that it will be cheaper, quicker and would not require sophisticated equipment. This collaborative agreement outlines a study to compare the "dot test" for malaria Ag and Ab detection with standard malaria techniques.

1. The Ain Shams Center will provide the Kuvin Center with filter paper blood samples collected during a malaria study in Faiyum. These samples were collected as duplicates, and thick film and IFA tests have already been completed.
2. Initial tests will be done on 297 samples collected in Abheet (Faiyum) during November 1983, a peak period of malaria transmission. Samples include 12 P. falciparum and 4 P. vivax cases, plus 70 positives by IFA. Background information will be provided on storage procedures, and details of IFA testing. Additionally, positive and negative control filter paper samples will be provided.

3. The Kuvin Center will test samples by the "dot test" for malaria antigen and antibody (including titer). Testing will be done without access to the thick film and IFA results.
4. Following completion of tests by the Kuvin Center, results will be compared by both groups to determine how the test compares to standard techniques.

This study will be the first step in "field testing" the new technique for rapid malaria diagnosis. On completion the technique will be established at the Ain Shams Center to strengthen capabilities for epidemiological research. Immediate applications could be implemented for projects in Siwa, Sinai and other area.

Results will be reported to NIAID and jointly published. Publication will follow only the signed agreement of all investigators. Authorship will be agreed upon by mutual consent of authors and Principal Investigators.

A joint workshop will be planned in the future to further discuss the scientific achievements and elaborate on training techniques involved.

INVESTIGATORS:

Ain Shams Universtiy, Research and Training Center on Vectors of Diseases:

- Dr. Sherif El Saïd - Overall coordination of laboratory and field work
- P.Dr. Zeinab Hassan - Responsible for Faiyum Study, and coordination of analysis.
- Dr. Mohamed Hussein - Responsible for collection of samples and analysis of results.
- Miss Magda Sayed - Responsible for laboratory analysis of samples.
- Dr. John Beier - Will assist with coordination and analysis.

Hebrew University, The Kuvim Centre for the Study of Infectious & Tropical Diseases:

- Dr. Dan Spira - Will run "dot test".
- Dr. Mauricio Londner - Will run "dot test".
- Dr. Graciela Rozen - Will run "dot test".

Ain Shams University,
Research & Training Center on
Vectors of Diseases:

Hebrew University,
The Kivin Centre for the Study of
Infectious & Tropical Diseases:

Adel Merdan
.....
P. Dr. Adel Merdan,
Director of the Center

.....
Dr. Dan Spira,
Director of the Centre

Sherif El Said 11/11/84
.....
Dr. Sherif El Said,
Principal Investigator (No. NO1 AI 22667)

.....
Dr. Rachel Galun,
Principal Investigator (No. NO1 AI 22668)

Zeinab Hassan 15/11/1984
.....
P. Dr. Zeinab Hassan,
P.L., Malaria

MW Londner
.....
Dr. Mauricio Londner,
Head, Diagnostic Unit /

John C. Beier 15/11/84
.....
Dr. John Beier,
NIH Resident Consultant

Reviewed by NIH/NIAID:

.....
Dr. Karl Western,
Project Officer

ANNEX 4

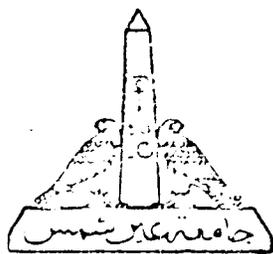
**Agenda for the '2nd International Conference on The
Epidemiology and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in the Near
East'**

Aswan, Egypt, October 1983

2nd International Conference on
The Epidemiology and Control of
Vector-Borne Diseases in
The Near East

Aswan, October (2-6), 1983

(Oberoi Hotel)



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المؤتمر الدولي الثاني لوبائية ومكافحة
الأمراض المنقولة بالחסرات
في الشرق الأدنى

أسوان : ٢ - ٦ أكتوبر ١٩٨٣

AGENDA

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ORIGINAL

October 1, 1983: Arrival (USA, and other International Parti-
(Saturday) cipants in Cairo)

October 2, 1983: Arrival (Near East Participants in Cairo)
(Sunday)

a.m. Visit Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3
Visit Serum and Vaccine Institute, MOH
Visit Ain Shams Center

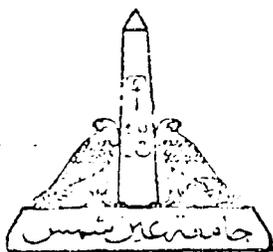
p.m. Departure to Aswan (Oberoi Hotel)

October 3, 1983: 0830 Registration
(Monday)

0900 Opening Speeches:

- H.E. General Shawky El-Metain (Governor of Aswan)
- H.E. Dr. Mohamed El-Hashimy (President, Ain Shams University)
- Dr. Sanford Kuvin (Kuvin Center - Hebrew University)
- Dr. Bernard Talbot (National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, NIAID)
- H.E. Mr. Michel Stone (Mission Director, AID - representing H.E. American Ambassador)
- H.E. Dr. Yehia Hassan (Deputy Minister, of Agriculture - deputized by H.E. Minister of Agriculture)
- H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Eadran (Head, National Academy of Science)
- H.E. Dr. Sabri Zaki (Minister of Health- Deputized by H.E. Prime Minister)

International Conference on
Epidemiology and Control of
Vector-Borne Diseases in
The Near East
Cairo, October (2-6), 1983



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1000 Coffee Break

1030 Concept of Regional Cooperation:

- Dr. Mahmoud Mahfouz (Ain Shams Center)

1045 Concept of Multinational Cooperation:

- Dr. Sanford Kuvin (Kuvin Center - Hebrew University)

1100 Status Report of Regional Projects:

- Dr. Karl A. Western (NIAID)

- Dr. Rachel Galun (Kuvin Center)

- Dr. Sherif El Said (Ain Shams University)

1230 Lunch (Oberoi Hotel)

1400 Leishmaniasis Update:

- Global: Dr. Franklin Neva (NIAID)

- Egypt: Dr. Aly Massoud (Ain Shams Center)

- Israel: Dr. Lionel Schnur (Kuvin Center)

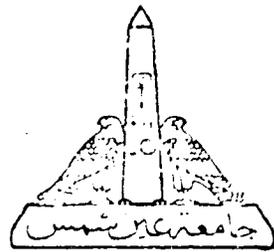
- Sudan: Dr. Sherif Hassan (National Public Health Laboratory)

- Kenya: Dr. Larry Hendricks (Army Research Laboratory)

- Bangladesh: Dr. Nural Khan (National Instit. of Preventive & Social Med.)

1530 Coffee Break

International Conference on
Epidemiology and Control of
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The Near East
Aswan, October (2-6), 1983



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1600 Malaria Update:

- Epidemiology : Dr. Harrison Spencer (CDC)
- Chloroquine Resistance : Dr. James Jensen (Michigan State)
- Mosquito Vectors: Dr. Robert Gwadz (NIAID)

1700 Rift Valley Fever Update:

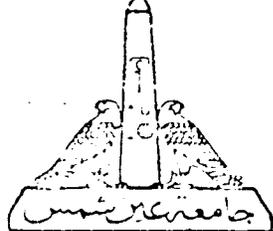
- Global: Dr. C.J. Peters (Ft. Detrick)

2000 Reception (Hosted by H.E. Governor of Aswan - Oberoi Hotel)

October 4, 1983: 0830 Discussion of Research Opportunities in Leishmaniasis in the Near East:
(Tuesday)

Moderator: - Dr. Donald Heyneman (Univ. California/SF)

- Discussants:
- Dr. Rifki Faris - Epidemiology of Visceral Leish. in Egypt (Ain Shams Center)
 - Dr. Samir Afram - Animal Reservoirs (Ain Shams Cen.)
 - Dr. Tousson Morsy - Parasitology of CL in Egypt (Ain Shams Center)
 - Dr. J. Schlein - Potential Vectors (Kuin Center)
 - Dr. Dominique LeRay - L. infantum in the Mediterranean (Belgium)
 - Dr. Eskild Peterson - Kala Azar in East Africa (Ariz.)



- 4 -

1030 Coffee Break

1100 Discussion of Research Opportunities in
Malaria in the Near East:

Moderator: - Dr. Franklin Neva (NIAID)

Discussants: - Dr. Mohmed Hussein - Epidemiology of Malaria (Ain Shams Center)

- Dr. Dan Spira - Rapid Diagnostic Methods (Kuvin Center)

- Dr. Adel Mahmoud - Improved Treatment Regimens (Case Western Reserve)

- Dr. William Collins - New Malarimetric Approaches (CDC)

- Dr. Harrison J. Spencer - Epidemiology Research (CDC)

1230 Lunch (Oberoi Hotel)

1400 Discussion of Research Opportunities in Rift
Valley Fever in the Near East:

Moderator: - Dr. Robert Tesh (Yale Univ.)

Discussants: - Dr. Ahmed Sherif - RVF Surveillance in Egypt (Ain Shams Center)

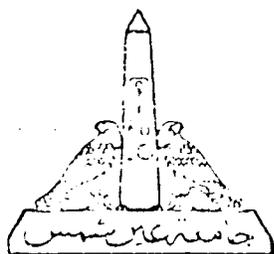
- Dr. Alfred Saah - Epidemiological Approaches for Disease Surveillance (NIAID)

- Dr. Nathan Goldblum - Rapid Diagnostic Methods (Hebrew University)

- Dr. Adel Gad - Potential Insect Vectors (Ain Shams Center)

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AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY

International Conference on
Epidemiology and Control of
Vector-Borne Diseases in
The Near East

Aswan, October (2-6), 1983

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1530 Coffee Break

1600 Consideration of Additional Research Opportunities in Vector-Borne Diseases:

Moderator: - Dr. Karl Western (NIAID)

Discussants: - Dr. Robert Gwadz (NIAID) -
Filariasis

- Dr. Robert Berquist - Schistosomiasis (Sweden: WHO Consultant)

- Dr. Richard J. Deckelbaum -
Parasitic Enteric Diseases
(Hadassah Medical Organiz.)

2000 Reception (Hosted by H.E. Dr. Sami Zaki,
Minister of Health - Oberoi Hotel)

October 5, 1983:

0830 Working Group Sessions

Chairman

- Leishmaniasis*

- Dr. Aly Massoud

- Malaria*

- Dr. Zeinab Hassan

- Rift Valley Fever*

- Dr. Medhat Darwish

(* Medical Entomology, under the supervision of Dr. Adel Merdan will be subdivided into three disease groups)

1030 Coffee Break

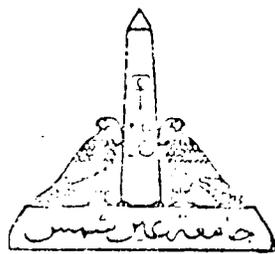
1100 Working Group Sessions (Cont'd)

1230 Lunch Break (Oberoi Hotel)

1400 Verbal Presentation Working Group Reports

1530 Coffee Break

International Conference on
Epidemiology and Control of
Vector-Borne Diseases in
The Near East
Ain Shams, October (2-6), 1983



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1600 Open Discussion Working Group Reports
Tour of Philae (Time permitting)

2000 Farwell Dinner (Hosted by H.E. Dr. Mohamed
El-Hashimy, President of Ain Shams Univ.)

October 6, 1983: 0830 Presentation of Recommendations for Regional
Projects:
- Discussion
- Future Activities

1200 Closing of Meeting

***** Have a Nice Stay in Egypt *****

ANNEX 5

Regional Collaboration Studies, 1985 - Dr. Sherif El Said

REGIONAL COLLABORATION STUDIES: (1985)

(Dr. Sherif El Said)

Regional collaboration remains an important part of the scientific activities at the Ain Shams University, Research and Training Center on Vectors of Diseases. During the past year projects in parasitology, epidemiology, and entomology have culminated in several presentations at international conferences and acceptance of manuscripts to international journals. The ongoing regional collaboration recently culminated in a regional meeting at Shoshon, Israel where scientists from the Ain Shams Center, the Kuvin Center for the Study of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, and selected participants from the institutions discussed the results of ongoing collaboration and planned additional work to be initiated over the next 6 months.

Collaborative studies in parasitology included leishmanial strains identification. Prof. Tossou Morsy and Dr. Lionel Schnur have continued to elucidate parasites borne by rodents and dogs in the Alexandria area as well as in other parts of Egypt. They have demonstrated for the first time that Leishmania major can be found in the RES of dogs. In addition, they have identified a crithidia-like organism found in both dogs and rodents which may have clinical importance in humans. This most recent finding is the widespread distribution of this organism. Dr. Morsy will be initiating a study of Sylvania reservoir hosts with Prof. Schlein and Dr. Lionel Schnur of the Kuvin Centre. This will concentrate on potential rodent reservoir for VL on the periphery of El Agamy.

Another aspect of parasitological research includes studies in bancrofti filariasis. The Center has demonstrated high endemicity of this disease in various areas of the Nile Delta. Dr. Adel Gad and Prof. Ahmed Shoukry have identified several vectors coexisting in the same locality which can maintain transmission over an entire warm season. Recently, Dr. Gad has identified epidemic filariasis in the periphery of Cairo. This results from the encroachment of populated areas into agricultural land containing vector breeding sites as well as filarial - infected individuals. To study such a unique problem, the Ain Shams Center and Kuvin Center in collaboration with Dr. Eric Ottesen, are developing a method to detect circulating filarial antigen. This would allow blood sampling of people in a focal study at a during day rather than at night which is necessary to detect microfilaria. In addition, this would improve sensitivity for detecting filarial infection. The regional groups included would combine expertise and technical facilities to produce monoclonal antibodies for detecting filarial antigen. This work has been initiated this past year and will receive continued attention over teh next 2 years.

A third study in parasitology concentrates on serodiagnosis of parasitic infections. Prof. Tosson MOrsy at the Ain Shams Center and Prof. Mauricio Londner of the Kuvin Center in collaboration with Dr. Suzan Giannini have compared the accuracy of several serological methods in detecting leishmanial antibodies. They found that in both animal and human sera, radioimmunoassay (IRA) is the most precise,

although followed by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Hemagglutination inhibition was neither sensitive nor specific. This project continues. Dr. Morsy is setting up the capacity to perform dot ELISA at the Center. We anticipate several exchange visits between Prof. Morsy's staff at the Ain Shams Center and Prof. Londner's staff, at the Kuvin Center over the next 6 months.

In epidemiology, Prof. Rifky Faris at the Ain Shams Center has collaborated with Prof. Londner in conducting a serosurvey of El Agamy, the focus of visceral leishmaniasis (VL) in the Alexandria area. Both scientists and their respective teams screened more than a thousand individuals in a population-based survey that extended over 18 months. This work identified risk factors for acquiring leishmanial seropositivity as well as individuals in the incubation period of VL. Further studies between both groups are planned over the next 18 months. In particular, they plan to describe the epidemiology of VL in areas outside of El Agamy where risk factors appear to differ from those of the current focus.

In entomology, Prof. Bahira El Sawaf and her staff have initiated a collaborative study with Prof. Mauricio Londner for identifying leishmania-infected sandflies. Prof. Bahira has collected Phlebotomus langeroni in El Agamy where they are the suspected vector of VL. Prof. Londner has then used RIA to detect the presence of leishmanial parasites. This is one of the key tools to implicate P. langeroni as the principle vector in El Agamy. This work remains ongoing.

A second Collaborative study in entomology includes particular aspects of Culex pipiens bionomics in Egypt and Israel. This study is being carried out by Dr. Adel Gad at the Ain Shams Center and Prof. Rachael Galun at the Kuvim Center. Each of the groups have described breeding site ecology and autogeny and compared the differences between the two areas. The study has demonstrated that Cx. pipiens pipiens extends from Israel to southern Egypt.

A third collaborative study in entomology exists between Prof. Adel Merdan of the Ain Shams Center and Prof. Joel Margalit of the Kuvim Center.

At the Shores Conference in Israel during May, 1985; several additional projects were discussed. This included work in rickettsial disease, viral diseases, and immunology. The protocols for these projects are being prepared by the interested Ain Shams Center scientists and their Kuvim Center counterparts. We anticipate continued in-depth collaborative projects with the Kuvim Center for the next 5 years.

ANNEX 6

Statement of Work

STATEMENT OF WORK

A. Objective

To obtain a review and recommendations on the current status, institutional significance, and future directions of the Egypt-Israel cooperation via the Epidemiology and Control of Vector-Borne Disease Project (ECVBD), one of the Regional Cooperation Projects.

B. Scope of Work

1. The consultant will review the AID Regional Cooperation appraisal criteria and assess:
 - a. The the original clarity and continuing appropriateness and validity of the original assumptions, criteria, and objectives of the ECVBD project.
 - b. The accomplishments, and future prospects of the ECVBD project to achieve the stated cooperation objectives, given the current project status, political and institutional and developmental climate of the principal cooperating institutions in Egypt and Israel. The reporting on this set of issues will also include a description of the principal collaborative accomplishments and discuss any difficulties in establishing a balanced collaborative working relationship between Egyptian and Israeli counterparts. Unforseen external factors, negative and positive, should be identified and discussed along with any unforeseen outputs and effects in each country setting.
 - c. Possible program/criteria redirections or adjustments which might increase opportunities for cooperation between Egypt and Israel in vector-borne disease epidemiology and control, or other shared priority biomedical or health services problems.
 - d. Suggested new opportunities and future directions, should the political and institutional situation permit a deepening and extension of the cooperation program.
2. The consultant shall conduct select interviews with key Egyptian and Israeli decisionmakers on location in Egypt and Israel, as well as with management staff at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, and project officers at AID. He shall collaborate on an ad lib basis with at least one key member of the NIH scientific research evaluation team, between August 30-Sept.15, 1985.

3. The consultant will prepare a written report to the Project Officer of the ECVBD Project (Nicholas G. Studzinski, 235-2205) covering the following items:
 - a. His findings as to the above.
 - b. His recommendations for U. S. program and policy concerning Regional Cooperation in the area of vector-borne and other priority disease control problems shared by the two countries.

C. Report

The report per B (3), above, is to be submitted within 30 days of completion of travel to Egypt and Israel, and should be between 15-20 pages in length, including a 3-4 page executive summary.