

EDITORIAL

The editors of the *Revista de Patologia Tropical* have been honored by the Tropical Diseases Research Program (TDR) of the World Health Organization (WHO) for the publication of the abstracts of a workshop on "Specific treatment of Chagas disease" to be held immediately before the International Congress of Cardiology, from 23 to 26 April 1988, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This supplement presents the abstracts of all contributions on the subject on both operational and research aspects.

In this meeting that will congregate specialists representing several Latin-American countries, as well as authorities of WHO and of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the controversial issue of specific treatment of Chagas disease will be discussed in order to elaborate a document with recommendations to Public Health authorities and other interested specialists in endemic countries.

Financial support by WHO through TDR on this subject should be emphasized. Summarized reviews on specific treatment of the early and late chronic phase of Chagas disease should be discussed, some of which sponsored by TDR. Recent studies by two independent and TDR supported research groups confirmed earlier reports on the efficacy of etiological treatment in the recent chronic phase of the disease. These achievements should now be known to the scientific community.

The editors of the *Revista* envisage success to the participants of this new initiative of TDR/WHO/PAHO which, as by the first "South Cone initiative for eradication of *Triatoma infestans*" will contribute significantly to improve health conditions of those, at least, 15 million people infected with American trypanosomiasis. On the other hand, the Editors will make every effort to publish the final conclusions of this workshop.

The Editors