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Hanseniasis as a model of non-idiopathic polygenic autoimmune and autoinflammatory diseases

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Applied to hanseniasis Antoine Béchamp stipulation "the microbe is nothing, the terrain is everything" may be considered as a link between the eras before and after A. Hansen. Regarding hanseniasis the widely accepted classification was formulated by Ridley and Jopling (1966). This classification divided this disease into two stable polar forms with instable borderline in between the two. This classification was based on bacteriological, immunological, histopathological and clinical features of the disease caused by M. leprae infection. O. Wagner (1969) forwarded the observations that in hanseniasis "many responses of the host are similar to those described as typical of the so-called collagen diseases". J.L. Turk published (1976) his paper entitled "Leprosy as a model of subacute and chronic immunologic diseases". The role of the adaptive and innate immunities in hanseniasis has been underlined by numerous publications since these initial papers. By deduction we see that hanseniasis comes within the scope of the immunological diseases classification proposed by D. McGonagle and M. McDermott (2006). The tuberculoid and lepromatous poles of Ridley-Jopling classification correspond respectively to the polygenic autoimmune and polygenic autoinflammatory poles of McGonagle-McDermott classification. Curiously, M. leprae has an exclusive ability to infect Schwann cells in peripheral nerves. Therefore the initial interaction between M. leprae and macrophages process is decisive for the outcome of the disease. This is to say that the initial bacillary load within the nerve is an essential factor determining the cycle and spectrum of hanseniasis.

Biography

Yohannes Negesse is a Pathologist trained in France and USA. He has worked more than 20 years in Ethiopia in different institutions. He is presently working in the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de la Guadeloupe, France. He has published more than 20 papers in the field of infectious diseases pathology.

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