

Minneapolis, Minn.
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AN INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PREVENTION
IN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY (I.S.C.)

A. INTRODUCTION

At the V World Congress on Cardiology (New Delhi, October 30 - November 5, 1966) it was voted to organize, within the I.S.C., Councils on several specialized fields related to cardiovascular disease. Each Council would agree to some common regulations but would be largely autonomous and would develop its structure and operations according to the wishes of the members. This memorandum is to provide information and ask for advice and comments in regard to the proposed Council on Epidemiology and Prevention.

B. HISTORY

In 1958 at Brussels (III World Congress) the view was expressed that the I.S.C. should do more than arrange periodic congresses. It was proposed to this end that the Research Committee of the I.S.C. become more active and this became a reality with the IV World Congress (Mexico City, 1962). During 1962-66 the Research Committee held part meetings in Kyoto, Prague, and Helsinki and full meetings at Makarska, Yugoslavia (1963), and at Venice (1965). The reports of the full meetings have been widely distributed and well received. Among results of the work of the Research Committee were the excellent Symposia presented at New Delhi. These Symposia will be published and should have considerable impact.

The successful activity of the Research Committee suggested further development of the I.S.C. organization to promote international communication and cooperation. And it was noted that, independent of the I.S.C., movements were afoot to organize international clubs or societies on hypertension, on arteriosclerosis, and on pediatric cardiology. Logically, such specialized groups should have a place in the I.S.C.

The decision at New Delhi was to authorize Councils on Hypertension, on Arteriosclerosis, on Clinical Physiology (or another name), on Pediatric Cardiology, on Biophysics in Cardiology, on Rehabilitation, and on Epidemiology and Prevention. Other Councils may be authorized later.

C. CURRENT STEPS

The Statutes of the I.S.C. are being revised to provide for these Council and guide lines for by-laws of the Councils are being prepared. It was agreed that membership in the several Councils should be open on a completely democratic basis, that each Council should have representation on the governing Council of the I.S.C., but that otherwise the Councils should be free to develop according to the wishes of their members.

In order to start organizing Councils, temporary initiators or "informateurs" were elected to communicate with their colleagues in the special fields and to report recommendations to the Executive Committee of the I.S.C. by the end of March, 1967. I was asked to take this responsibility for Epidemiology and Prevention. Michael Oliver (Edinburgh) is doing the same for Arteriosclerosis, Lars Werkö (Gothenburg) for Clinical Physiology, Rijlant (Brussels) for Biophysics in Cardiology, John Keith (Toronto) for Pediatric Cardiology, etc.