

5 Mitsuya H, Weinhold KJ, Furman PA, *et al.* 3'-azido- 3'-deoxythymidine (BW A509U): an antiviral agent that inhibits the infectivity and cytopathic effect of human T-lymphotropic virus type III/lymphadenopathy-associated virus in vitro. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1985; **82**: 7096-100.

Cardiac side effects of beta blocker eyedrops

SIR, The study by Brazier and Smith¹ of carteolol versus timolol eyedrops suggests that, whatever the theoretical advantages of intrinsic sympathomimetic activity in reducing cardiac side effects, it does not prevent carteolol from inhibiting exercise induced tachycardia. We must therefore remain sceptical in the face of blandishments from the pharmaceutical companies that this and other new beta blockers for ophthalmic use will produce fewer cardiac side effects.

Further studies are required to test whether or not these new drugs provide significant protection against beta blockade of cardiac contractility and peripheral vascular resistance. Perhaps the situation will only become clear when we have sufficient clinical experience of these drugs in the elderly glaucoma population. Meanwhile ophthalmologists should report all cases of cardiac and respiratory side effects to the Committee of Safety of Medicines using the familiar yellow cards.

J L JAY

Tennent Institute of Ophthalmology,
Western Infirmary,
Glasgow G11 6NT

Reference

1 Brazier DJ, Smith SE. Ocular and cardiovascular response to topical carteolol 2% and timolol 0.5% in healthy volunteers. *Br J Ophthalmol* 1987; **72**: 101-3.

Notes

Research grants

The *David Cole Travel fellowship*, instituted by Merck Sharp and Dohme in memory of Professor David Cole, will assist a visit to a hospital or research centre during the academic year starting 1 October 1988. The award will be equivalent to £2000. The purpose of the award is to enable the successful applicant to gain experience and knowledge in pursuit of a specific project related to glaucoma.

The *Glaucoma Group Research grant*, sponsored by the International Glaucoma Association, will be available for a research project clinically orientated to glaucoma for 1988. The award will be equivalent to £2500. The grant may be used towards salary or project expenses or for buying equipment.

Both these awards are available to medical graduates and non-medical scientists resident in the United Kingdom or the Irish Republic. They may be held concurrently with other awards. Further details and application forms from Dr S Nagasubramanian, Secretary Glaucoma Group, Glaucoma Unit, Moorfields Eye Hospital, High Holborn,

London WC1V 7AN. The closing date for applications is 15 June 1988. The successful candidate will be informed by August 1988.

Tenth Interamerican course in clinical ophthalmology

This will be held in Miami, Florida, on 18-22 October 1988. Details from Interamerican Course, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, PO Box 016880, Miami, FL 33101, USA.

Geographical ophthalmology

The next meeting of the International Society of Geographical Ophthalmology will be held jointly with the Ophthalmological Society of East Africa in Nairobi, Kenya, on 3-5 August 1988. There will be symposia on 'Retinal diseases in different geographical settings' and 'Ocular disease due to chlamydia' as well as free papers. Further information from Professor Gordon J Johnson, Director International Centre for Eye Health, 27-29 Cayton Street, London EC1V 9EJ.

Singapore conference

The XXVI International Congress of Ophthalmology will be held in Singapore on 18-24 March 1990. Details from Dr Arthur S M Lim, c/o Department of Ophthalmology, National University Hospital, Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 0922, Republic of Singapore.

Retinitis pigmentosa

The 5th International Retinitis Pigmentosa Congress will be held on 4-7 November 1988 at Melbourne, Australia. Details from RP Congress, 46a Oxley Road, Hawthorn, Victoria 3122, Australia.

Prize for outstanding achievement

The Ludwig Von Sallmann Prize will be awarded at the 8th International Congress of Eye Research to be held on 4-8 September 1988 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, San Francisco, California. The award of \$30 000 is for an outstanding achievement in ophthalmology and vision. Information and nomination blanks for this award can be obtained from Peter Gouras, MD, Von Sallmann Prize Committee, Columbia University, Box 18, 630 West 168 Street, New York, New York 10032, USA.

Correction

In the article by Burton G Goldstein and Peter Reed Pavan (*Br J Ophthalmol* 1987; **71**: 676-81) Dr Goldstein informs us that the following figures were published reversed: Fig 1, right photograph of stereopair; Figs 2, 3, and 5.