

# Prevention of Disability: Who is Preventing What?



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## August, 2002, the 16th International Leprosy Congress

ILA Technical Forum Report

↓  
Early detection and treatment of leprosy

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Croft's Prediction Rule

↓  
Prevention of nerve impairment

↓  
BANDS, AMFES and TRIPOD -

Epidemiology, detection and prevention of nerve impairment

INFIR

Order and sequence of effects of neuropathology on sensibility and motor function



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## Treatment of Nerve Function Impairment

### Van Veen et al.

- ▶ The treatment of either long standing nerve function impairment or mild sensory impairment - corticosteroids were no more affective than placebo
- ▶ The recovery of nerve function appears to be dependent more on the duration and or severity of impairment before it is treated

Prednisolone – an inadequate “best fit”

### Schreuder

35% NFI cases – no improvement or worse

### Marlow et al.

Azathioprine v Prednisolone - no benefits of over Prednisolone



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## A Troubling Scenario

Early detection and treatment of leprosy

Lower case detections



Erosion of diagnostic abilities



Effective treatment for NFI

Increase in secondary disabilities



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## Secondary Disabilities

2004 - **WHO** estimated 2 to 3 million people with leprosy related disabilities

**WHO** statistics based on assessment at diagnosis (4% WHO Grade 2) ?

### Deepak

Surveys conducted **after** MDT revealed prevalence rates ranging from 17% to 50%

2006 - **Consensus Development Conference**

How to achieve a greatly enhanced, global coverage of

### Self-Care and Footwear



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## The Issue of Footwear

Refer to studies of people with diabetic neuropathy:

### Ctercteko et al.

Contra lateral feet of subjects with ulceration also displayed pressures not significantly different from feet with ulcers.

### Veves et al.

Prospective study - Only 35% of subjects that were recorded as presenting with high foot pressures at baseline developed plantar ulcers

### Pham et al.

Peak pressure - highly specific indicator but not a sensitive indicator



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## The Issue of Footwear

Assessment of footwear is problematic but necessary - current assumptions based on developments contemporaneous with Dapsone

### Seboka et al

75% of subjects with ulcers who used canvas shoes had no ulcer at the end of the study, while no significant change was recorded for subjects who wore bespoke molded plastazote sandals.

*Is ordinary commercial, soft soled footwear an appropriate intervention to prevent ulceration?*

### Reiber et al.

No evidence to suggest that people with insensible feet, but no severe deformity, derived any significant benefit from wearing footwear modified by their experimental insoles

### MacFarlane and Jeffcoate

Poor footwear was implicated in 21% of the foot ulcer cases they recorded.



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## The Issue of Self-Care

The complexity of Simplicity

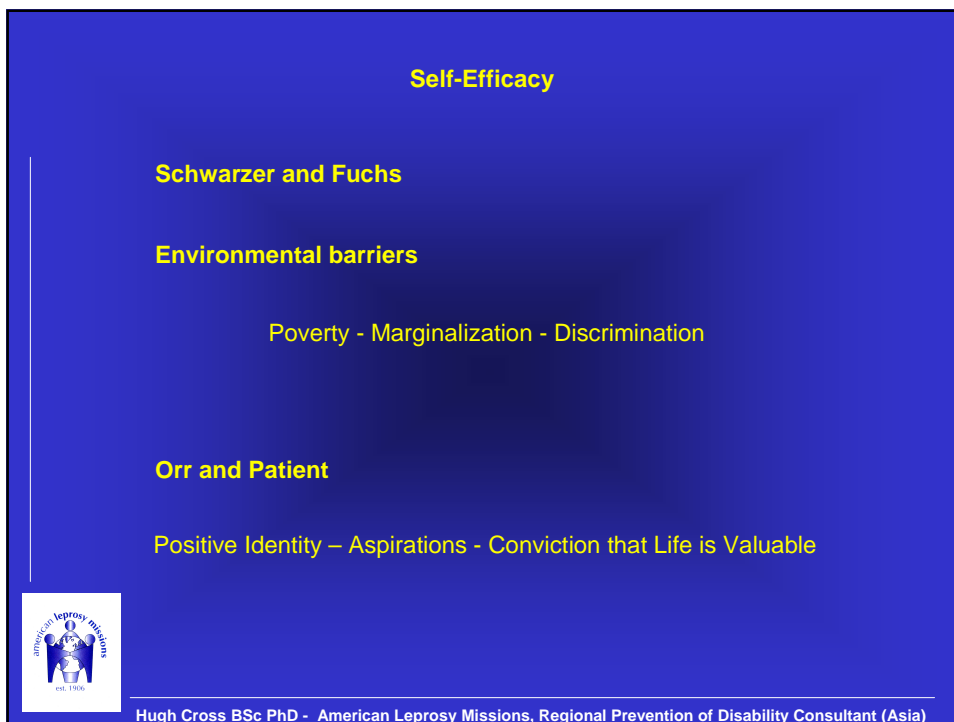
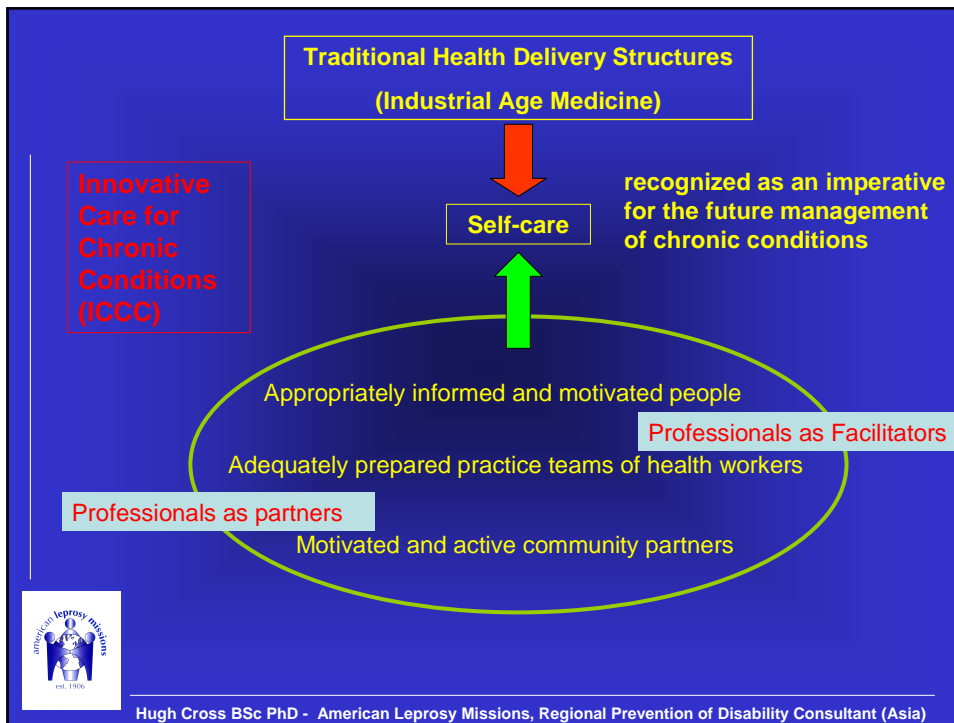
### Bandura

### Schwarzer and Fuchs

**Positive health behavior is dependent primarily on the extent to which individuals perceive their levels of self-efficacy**



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The Challenge

**CONTROL**



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**Thank You**



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