

Report of the Committee on Coordinated Study of Prophylactic Measures Against CHF in Rostov Oblast

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In 1963, it became necessary to organize a committee for coordinated study and prophylactic measures against CHF following the 1st discovery of a natural focus in Rostov. Klimkina, Leshchinskaya, Perelatov, Pokrovsky, and Slyshko demonstrated this disease virologically.

Based on the decision of the Regional Committee and Regional Executive Committee, the order to organize a coordinating center for studying CHF in the Regional Health Department was given to Department Head N. T. Trubilin. The members were M. E. Badalov, A. G. Bliznichenko, N. B. Birulya, N. M. Blagoveshchenskaya, L. V. Zarubina, V. N. Lazarev, N. P. Mironov, V. D. Perelatov, S. N. Pokrovsky, V. N. Slyshko, S. F. Shevchenko, and T. D. Yanovich. Professor T. D. Yanovich was elected president of the committee.

The committee later attracted several scientific workers and physicians, including veterinary workers.

The committee objectives were: (1) study the natural focus following the method of E. N. Pavlovsky school, and (2) study human populations inhabiting the CHF focus.

At the end of 1950, many changes occurred in the rural economy of Rostov Oblast, such as intensified farming and supplementary plowing of old overgrown grassy areas and of pastures for grain cultivation. According to the agreement, animal breeding farms were required to develop pastures in virgin lands characterized by a definite landscape and abundant *Hyalomma plumbeum* ticks. It was proved that cattle were attacked by pasture ticks thus becoming the chief host of these ticks. The occupation of patients infected in 1963 confirmed this situation; 9 of 11 patients were milkmaids and 1 handled cattle.

Basic subjects for the executive groups were specified in the detailed plan of the Institute of Medicine, Epidemiology, Microbiology, and Hygiene; Institute of Malaria and Medical Parasitology; Antiplague Institute; and Regional Sanitary Epidemiological Station. In 1965, the coordinated plan for CHF study was still not a vital part of general plans of these institutes and there were no basic virological investigations on CHF.

Consequently, the committee had to plan, coordinate, and control the study of CHF, as well as to submit organizational questions to the RSFSR Ministry of Health, for example, creation of a laboratory of natural focal diseases with a virological department in the Regional Institute of Epidemiology, Microbiology, and Hygiene (RIEMH). This laboratory was organized in 1966 (Director N. M. Blagoveshchenskaya).

The main subjects of the CHF study were:

1. Ecology, geography, and landscape problems were studied by V. F. Kondratenko, N. M. Blagoveshchenskaya, I. M. Kolesnikov, M. N. Mironov, S. F. Shevchenko, etc. (RIEMN and Antiplague Institute), and N. B. Birulya and L. I. Zalutskaya (Institute of Malaria and Medical Parasitology). Landscape characteristics and biocenoses, including ecological properties of vectors, were studied for a short time by an expedition.

2. CHF epidemiology was investigated by physicians of the Regional Sanitary Epidemiological Station V. D. Perelatov, M. E. Badalov, and others, and in institutes by T. D. Yanovich, N. M. Blagoveshchenskaya, and others.

3. The clinical study of CHF was by E. V. Leshchinskaya and V. N. Lazarev; A. F. Gusarev made the pathologic-anatomic investigations.

4. Virological and serological investigations became possible and effective only by contact between local laboratories and the Laboratory of Virological Hemorrhagic Fever, Institute of Poliomyelitis, as well as under the direct guidance of Academician of the Academy of Medical Sciences Prof. M. P. Chumakov, and A. M. Butenko. The following persons participated in this work: L. V. Zarubina, I. K. Vishnevskaya, V. N. Milyutin, V. V. Kuchin, V. D. Rabinovich, G. A. Karinskaya, etc.

5. The ecology of *Hyalomma plumbeum* ticks and effect of acaricidal preparations and repellents was studied by S. F. Shevchenko.

The study of the CHF natural focus in Rostov Oblast resulted in determining its complete characteristics and medical-geographical position, as well as classifying the circulating virus. Results of investigation were discussed in 3 scientific-practical conferences; reports on the entire problems were made in the 3rd conference.

In 1965, the committee organized prophylactic measures against activity in the natural focus based on the general methods of E. N. Pavlovsky on natural foci of infections and on certain personal observations.

The 1st attempts to enforce prophylactic measures against CHF involved preparation of medical worker groups for widescale hygiene education work, especially among the professional groups most exposed to danger while treating confined cattle ill with hemorrhagic fever¹ and during vaccination of cattle with sera from animals that had recovered. Later, the committee showed exceptional efficiency in treating

¹We know no description of symptoms of this disease or of CHF viremia in cattle.