Preventing Injuries (All Kinds)
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A spectrum of topics, all with the basic theme of prevention of injuries (related to fire, burns, knee ligament tears, teenage driving, and choking), are covered in this issue of *Pediatric Annals*, guest edited by Dr. Robert Tanz.

Prevention is the hallmark, the major activity, of pediatricians and others who provide care for children, and of course, prevention includes immunizations and anticipatory guidance of many kinds (i.e., car seats). The most frustrating aspect of prevention is that when it succeeds, nothing happens. The child doesn’t develop pneumococcal meningitis or measles or head trauma in a car crash or any other condition that has been prevented. Nevertheless, we know that our preventive efforts are highly worthwhile by any measure and need to be sustained and expanded whenever possible.

In this issue, among other things, I learned about the exciting neuromuscular training programs that appear to reduce the rates of anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries among female athletes and about the progress that has been made in preventing tap water scald injuries by controlling hot water heater settings, efforts spearheaded by Drs. Murray Katcher (from my hometown of Toledo, Ohio) and Ken Feldman. The focus on attempts to prevent non-tap water scalding particularly associated with microwave spillage of hot liquids by children younger than 5 years is an exciting, new idea. I also call your attention to the firsthand report by Dr. Paul Veldhouse regarding his interesting and thought-provoking observations related to his recent medical trip to Haiti. Veldhouse was a Chief Resident at Children’s Memorial in Chicago last year.

To illustrate this column, I have chosen two colorful souvenir sheets that, among others, honor scientists involved in preventive efforts, such as immunizations and antisepsis. The 2008 sheet from Japan (see page 681) highlights the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize, which was first awarded by the Japanese government in 2008 to mark the 80th anniversary of the death of this famous bacteriologist.
Prize, which was first awarded by the Japanese government in 2008 to mark the 80th anniversary of the death of this famous bacteriologist. The prize honors Noguchi’s contributions to medical advancement and his self-sacrificing activities in Africa. The first recipients of this prize, awarded every 5 years, were Dr. Brian Greenwood, the Manson Professor of Clinical Tropical Medicine at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, for his work on malaria, and Professor Miriam K. Were, Chair of the National AIDS Control Council of Kenya, for advancing a community-based approach to health services in Africa.

Noguchi (1876-1928) graduated from Nippon Medical School in Japan in 1897 and came to the US in 1900 to work with Simon Flexner (who discovered Shigella flexneri), first at the University of Pennsylvania and then at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in New York. In 1912-1913, he discovered that Treponema pallidum was the causative agent of syphilis, recovering it from the brain of a patient with the progressive paralysis/paresis of syphilis.

Noguchi was nominated, but not selected, for the Nobel Prize in medicine at least nine times from 1913-1927 for his work on syphilis, as well as for work on Oroya fever, polio, and trachoma. For the past 10 years of his life, he worked in Central and South America and in Africa, working on yellow fever (which he thought was likely spirochetal in etiology but is actually viral). Working in Accra, Gold Coast (now Ghana), he died of yellow fever in 1928, and he is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in New York City. Noguchi was awarded many honors in life, including honoring degrees at Yale and elsewhere; Leptospira noguchii was named for him. The Noguchi Memorial Institute of Medical Research was founded in 1979 at the University of Ghana, and since 2004, his portrait has appeared on the 1,000 yen banknote in Japan.

The second sheet is part of a booklet issued in early 2010 by the UK to honor the 350-year anniversary of the founding of The Royal Society, the world’s first scientific society, which was founded in 1660 in London by 12 men, including Christopher Wren, Robert Boyle, and Robert Hooke.

This sheet honors Edward Jenner (1749-1823), developer of the smallpox vaccine (elected to The Royal Society in 1788); Sir Joseph Lister (1827-1912), pioneer of antiseptic surgery (elected to The Royal Society 1860); and Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin (1910-1994), who was elected to The Royal Society in 1947 at the young age of 36 for her pioneering work with X-ray crystallography of biomolecules such as cholesterol, insulin, and penicillin. She received the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1964 for her crystallographic work on the structure of vitamin B12, and she is the only British woman scientist to win a Nobel. Her husband, Thomas Hodgkin, was Director of the Institute of African Studies at The University of Ghana. Interestingly, she was not permitted to enter the United States until the collapse of the Soviet Union because of her husband’s and her scientific mentor’s political views.

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