

The Assembly asked that WHO extend its activities in various fields, including medical research, especially in cardiovascular diseases and cancer, in monitoring of adverse reactions to drugs, in traffic accidents and in atomic radiation.

Cancer continues high on the list of WHO priorities, and activities covered, in particular, studies on epidemiology, pathology and control of this disease. A large training programme for cancer-research workers is also in progress. A review of present trends in cancer research was published during the year, covering more than 5,000 projects in 58 countries. This information is stored and kept up-to-date as part of the WHO information service on progress in the biomedical sciences.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer, established in 1965 by the World Health Assembly, began its work in temporary offices at WHO headquarters, pending a move to its definite location—Lyons, France. One of the first efforts of this new agency is to study the global incidence of cancer, including the study of populations of high and unusual cancer risk.

In 1966, WHO awarded more than 2,500 fellowships to graduate workers from 105 countries, making a total of over 21,000 such fellowships to the end of 1965. The drastic shortage of doctors in many parts of the world continues, and WHO assisted Cameroun, Ethiopia, Kenya, Kuwait, Syria and Zambia in the establishment of new medical schools.

Turning briefly to Canada's participation in the World Health Organization, some pride can be taken in the fact that Canada was one of the 51 members of the United Nations which drafted the Constitution of the World Health Organization at the International Health Conference held in New York in 1946 and the third among the required 26 members formally ratifying this document. This marked a new era in Canadian medical affairs and provided the most tangible evidence of the entry of the health professions of Canada into the international field.

Nearly 70 Canadian specialists in various health and related disciplines are members of 28 of the total of 44 WHO expert advisory panels. In the area of specialized training, Canadian medical establishments—medical schools and schools of hygiene and nursing, clinics and teaching hospitals—have provided and continue to make increasingly available training opportunities for WHO fellows and those under other international auspices.

On the professional staff of WHO, at headquarters or in the six regions, the most recent report of the Director-General shows the number of Canadians to total 63.

While monetary expenditures in themselves are not necessarily to be interpreted as indices of health endeavour or advancement, it is of interest to