

Gopalan

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
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7 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

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Dr. C. Gopalan
Director, National Institute of Nutrition
Indian Council of Medical Research
Hyderabad - 50007
INDIA

Dear Dr. Gopalan:

I have recently read your very interesting paper in Vitamins and Hormones (33, 505-528) describing your studies of pellagra on the Deccan Plateau and would like to ask you for references to any subsequent publications on this subject.

I would like to know your opinion of the possibility that perhaps in addition to nutritional factors trichothecene mycotoxins may be involved in the etiology of pellagra, as suggested by Schoental (Biochemical Society Transactions, 8: 147-150, 1980). I would also value learning from you the answers to some detailed questions, namely:

- o What are the symptoms of pellagra encountered on the Deccan Plateau?
- o What is the seasonal pattern of pellagra incidence in the region?
- o Have any tests been done or are any planned to test for a relationship between pellagra and exposure to trichothecene mycotoxins or to mold-infested sorghum or other moldy food?

Finally, I wonder if you would have any interest in collaborating with me to examine urine and blood of pellagra victims and controls for trichothecenes.

Sincerely,

Matthew Meselson

Matthew Meselson
Professor of Biochemistry
and Molecular Biology