Mycobacterium avium complex: Current management

As advances have been made in the prevention and treatment of other opportunistic infections which complicate human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, an increasing proportion of HIV-infected individuals have developed *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infection. Indeed, MAC is recognized as the most important bacterial pathogen in patients with AIDS. Over the last several years, our understanding of the risk factors for MAC infection and the impact of MAC infection in HIV-infected individuals has been increasingly elucidated. Furthermore, effective prophylactic and therapeutic strategies are now available, although there is clearly room for improvement in both departments.

On September 12, 1993, in Vancouver, British Columbia, at the Annual Meeting of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, a satellite symposium on MAC infection, co-sponsored by the Canadian Infectious Disease Society, was held to review our current understanding of this increasingly important clinical problem and to indicate the direction of further research in the next few years. The four presentations at that symposium are reproduced here in this supplement. It is expected that even better prophylactic and therapeutic strategies will be defined by clinical trials which are currently in progress or about to commence.

Stephen D Shafran MD
Co-Chairman