

**AN ENZYME LINKED IMMUNOSORBENT ASSAY (ELISA) FOR THE DETECTION OF
ANTI-WUCHERERIA BANCROFTI ANTIBODIES IN HUMAN FILARIASIS SUBJECTS**

S. Dissanayake

(Department of Biochemistry, University of Peradeniya)

and

M. M. Ismail

(Medical Research Institute, Colombo)

An ELISA for the detection of anti-*W. bancrofti* antibodies in human filariasis subjects is described. Four groups of subjects were investigated: 1. symptomatic cases 2. asymptomatic microfilaraemic cases 3. asymptomatic amicrofilaraemic cases from endemic areas 4. asymptomatic amicrofilaraemic cases from a non-endemic area. The antigen was derived from *Setaria digitata* obtained from cattle. Cross reactions were largely eliminated by the use of competitive immunoabsorption with immune sera from cattle infected with *S. digitata*.

The results when compared with the indirect fluorescent antibody test using microfilariae of *W. bancrofti* as antigen indicate that the ELISA is a reliable test for the serological diagnosis of human filariasis.