
Bibliography of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Parkinsonism-Dementia of Guam

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BIBLIOGRAPHY OF
AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS AND
PARKINSONISM-DEMENTIA OF GUAM

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PREFACE

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), locally referred to as litiko or paralitiko, occurs in extremely high incidence among the indigenous Chamorro population of Guam. This prompted the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness of the National Institutes of Health to establish a field station on the island in 1956 to clarify the etiology and pathobiology of this fatal neurologic disease. A second fatal neurologic disorder, parkinsonism-dementia (PD), locally referred to as bodig or rayput, was discovered in equally high incidence on Guam a few years later and added a second major dimension to the neurological investigations of the Research Center. The field station is currently located in the Guam Memorial Hospital and is called the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke (NINCDS) Research Center. Intensive and systematic epidemiologic, neurologic and neuropathologic surveillance of Guam and her neighboring sister islands in the Marianas chain is part of a multifaceted study of high incidence foci of ALS and parkinsonian syndromes in the western Pacific. The remaining major Pacific foci, West New Guinea and the Kii Peninsula of Japan, together with the Guam focus, provide unique research opportunities for solving the cause of ALS and parkinsonism not only in the western Pacific but worldwide as well.

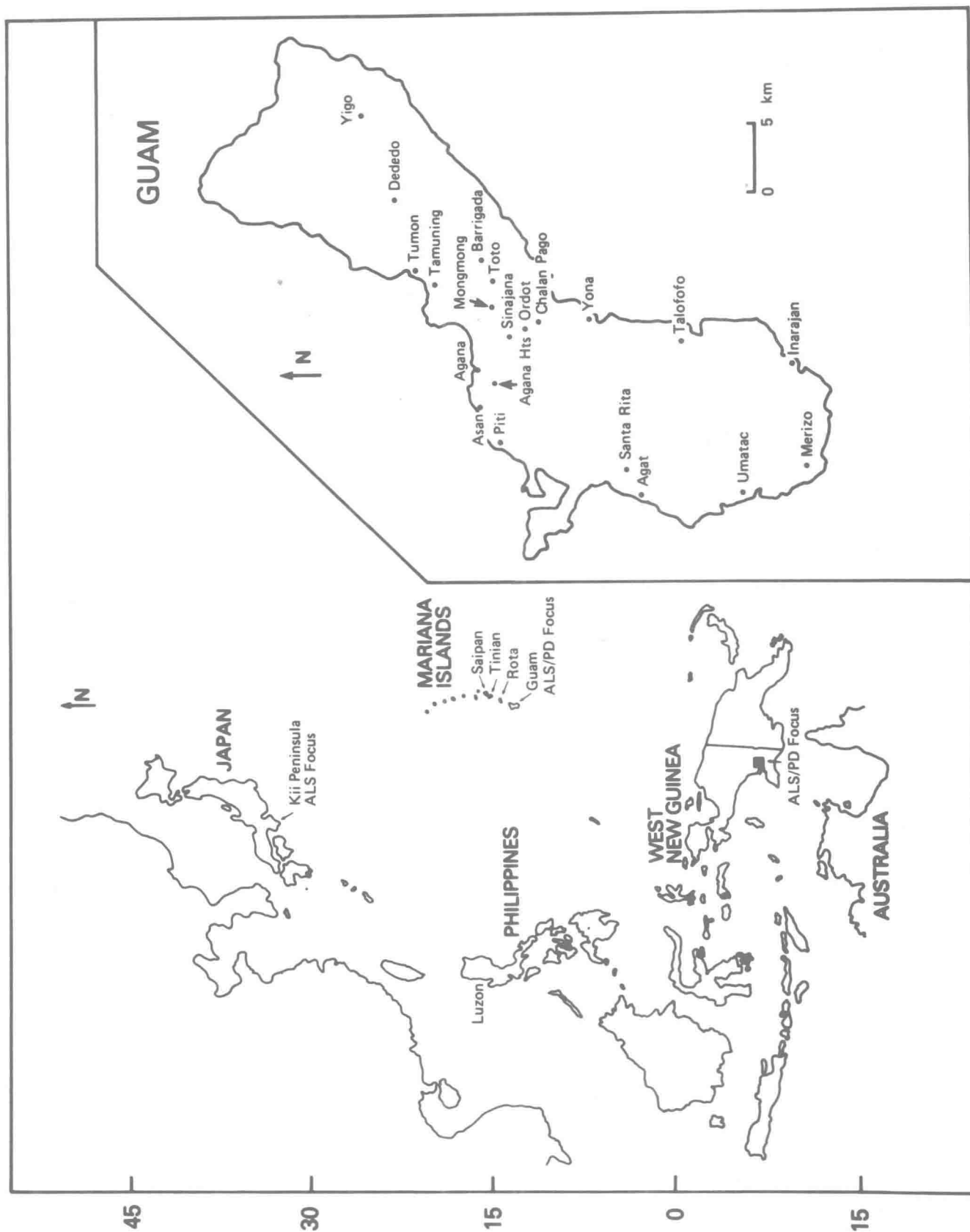
This bibliography comprises several sections: all scientific publications on the hyperendemic focus of ALS and PD of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are arranged alphabetically (according to author) and chronologically; publications on the high incidence of motor neuron disease and parkinsonian syndromes in the Kii Peninsula of Japan and in West New Guinea are listed separately; selected references dealing with various aspects of the environment and people of the Mariana Islands form the Supplemental Bibliography. No attempt was made to include journalistic or passing references to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or parkinsonism-dementia. Also, references to these disorders within textbooks of medicine were not included. The Supplemental Bibliography on Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was subdivided into several major sections, but no attempt was made to prepare a definitive supplement. Only a sampling of major publications and other selected references were included to provide a general comprehensive background to the Mariana Islands.

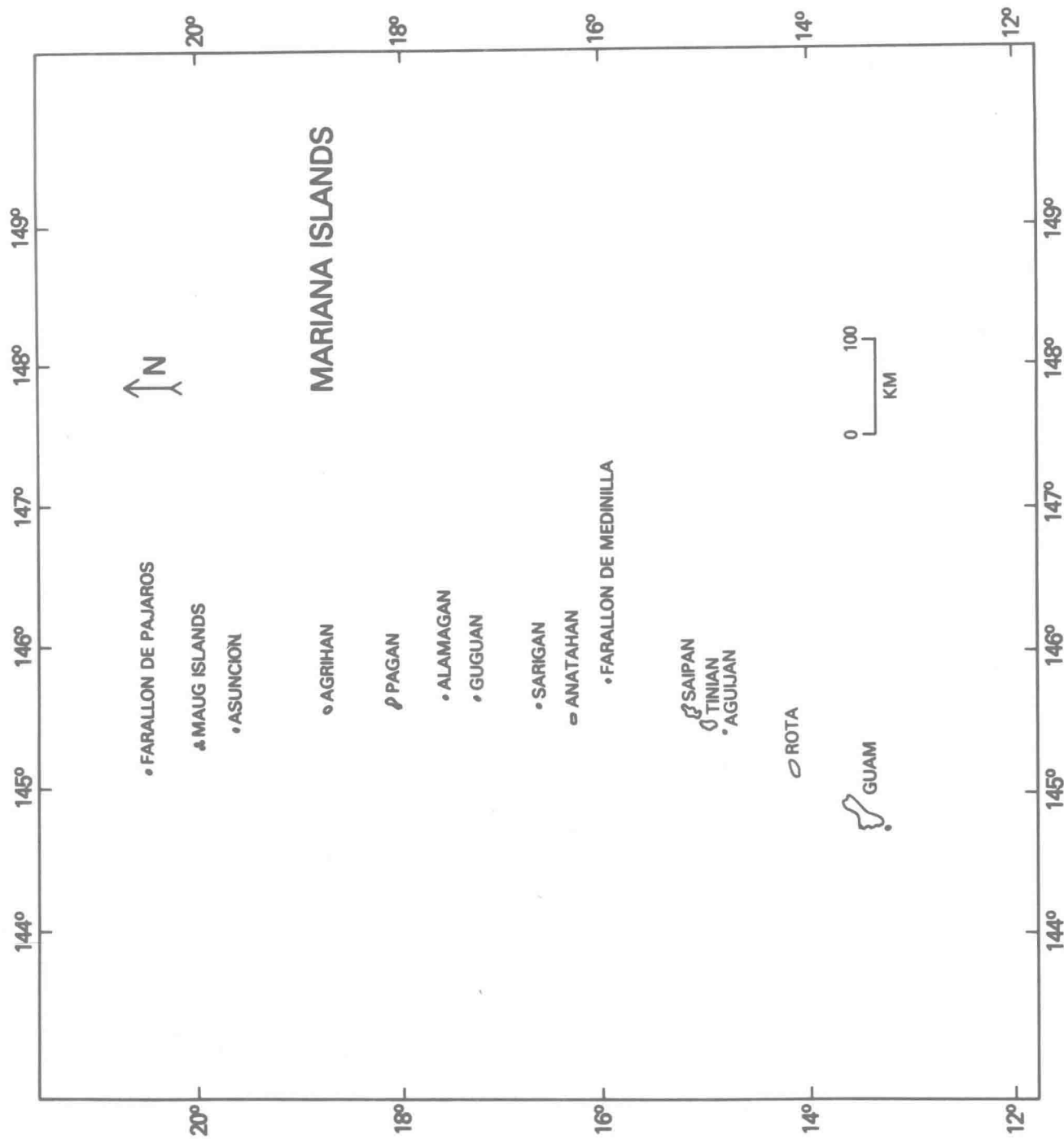
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We would like to express our appreciation to the patients and their families and to all those who participated as normal volunteers in investigations on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and parkinsonism-dementia throughout the Mariana Islands. Past governors, both military and civilian, and the Guam Legislature have cooperated extensively to help us continue the important work of the NINCDS Research Center. The professional personnel and technical staff of the Guam Memorial Hospital, the Naval Regional Medical Center, the Medical Center of the Marianas, the Rota Hospital, the Dr. Torres Hospital on Saipan, the Public Health Departments on Guam and Saipan, and the Office of Vital Statistics on Guam have been of invaluable help. We are particularly indebted to Drs. Arthur J. Loerzel, Hong-Yee Park, Leung Chen, Francisco Palacios, Jose Chong, Benusto Kaipat and Bernard You for their continued support and assistance, and to the Guam Medical Society and the many practicing physicians on the island for referring patients to us. In the early years the success of the program often depended on assistance from the public health nurses, village commissioners and priests. The Departments of Public Works and Agriculture and the Guam Environmental Protection Agency have also been of great assistance.

We wish to thank those acknowledged for their years of service and dedication to the NINCDS Research Center, and for their continued cooperation in furthering our knowledge of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and parkinsonism-dementia locally as well as worldwide. Virtually no Chamorro family on the island of Guam has escaped the effects of these progressively degenerative neurological disorders, and we hope that continued research will help to reduce the burden of suffering endured by the Chamorro people of the Mariana Islands.





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