Sir,

In recent years decreased concentrations of selenium in the blood or low blood GSH-Px activity have been reported in several dermatological disorders. For example low GSH-Px has been found in psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, dermatis herpetiformis (1) and in acne (2). Decreased selenium concentrations have been reported in psoriasis (3, 4), atopic dermatitis (3) and all stages of malignant melanoma (5).

The whole blood and plasma selenium in 37 young men (18–25 years old) with inflammatory acne was measured by the same method as was previously used in a study on selenium levels in psoriasis (4). As shown in Table I, the selenium concentration was significantly decreased in the acne patients. Four women (20–30 years old) with persistent inflammatory acne had mean values of 1.50 μmol/l in whole blood and 1.10 μmol/l in plasma, whereas the corresponding values in a group of healthy women were 1.93 and 1.34 μmol/l, respectively.

Whether this decrease reflects a real deficiency—

Table I. Selenium in whole blood and plasma (μmol, mean SD) in young men with acne and in healthy men 20–49 years old

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Whole blood</th>
<th>Plasma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acne vulgaris</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1.59 ± 0.40</td>
<td>1.22 ± 0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy men</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1.80 ± 0.23</td>
<td>1.36 ± 0.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < 0.005.

REFERENCES

ANNOUNCEMENTS
3rd Annual Combined Winter Skin Seminar will be held in Sheraton Steamboat Resort and Conference Center, Steamboat Springs, Colorado in February 11–16, 1990. For further information: Dr Wilma F. Bengfeld, Department of Meetings and Conventions, American Academy of Dermatology, P.O. Box 3116, Evanston, IL 60204-3116, USA. Telephone: (312) 866-3954.

The Symposium on Metabolic Disorders and Nutrition related to the Skin organized jointly by the European Society for Dermatological Research and the Netherlands Society of Dermatology and Venereology will be held in Utrecht, the Netherlands from 8–10 March, 1990. It will be a synthesis of basic facts and clinical data. Free communications are welcome. For further information: Willem A. van Vliet, MD,

Department of Dermatology, University Hospital Utrecht, Postbox 85500, 3508 GA Utrecht, the Netherlands.

XIth World Congress on Occupational Safety and Health will be held in Hamburg on May 6–11, 1990. For further information: XIth World Congress on Occupational Safety and Health, Hamburg Messe und Congress GmbH, Postfach 302480, FRG. Telephone: 040/35692242.

Dermatopathology Foundation 17th Annual Course in Gross and Microscopic Pathology of the Skin will be held in The Hotel del Coronado (across bay from San Diego), California on June 11–15, 1990. For further information please contact: Dermatopathology Foundation, P.O. Box 377, Canton, MA 02021, USA. Telephone: 1-800-729-6136 or (617) 821-0648.