



## **Sixth Inter-Island Public Health Forum**

Les Côtils Christian Centre, Cambridge Park Guernsey

Wednesday, 17th October - Saturday, 20th October 2001

### **Gibraltar's Barbary Macaques - a public health problem?**

**Dr. V. Kumar, Director of Public Health, Gibraltar**

The existence of a free-living feral species of mammal within a densely populated urban environment must itself raise questions about public health and safety. However, when the death of a child visitor from an undisclosed infective illness was linked by the press to a macaque "bite" a few days earlier, the questions had to be answered quickly, thoroughly and convincingly.

The presentation describes Gibraltar's approach to its unique problem, but raises some general questions about immunisation policy.