Notes and events

Forthcoming events

In 1994

15-16 April 4th Breton Workshop on autoimmunity, Brest. Contact: The Secretariat, Laboratory of Immunology, Brest University Medical School Hospital, BP 824-26 609, Brest Cedex, France. Tel: (33) 98 22 33 84. Fax: (33) 98 80 10 76

17-22 Apr 11th International congress of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists, Imperial College, London, United Kingdom Contact: Conference Associates and Services Ltd-WFOT, 55 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7RE, United Kingdom. Tel: 071 486 0531. Fax: 071 935 7559

19-22 Apr BSR XIth AGM, Brighton Abstract deadline 26 November 1993 Contact: British Society for Rheumatology, Anne Mansfield, Deputy Executive Secretary, 3 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB. Tel: 071 224 3739. Fax: 071 224 0156

22 Apr British Health Professionals in Rheumatology AGM: Service Provision in Rheumatology, Brighton (during BSR AGM) Contact: British Health Professionals in Rheumatology, c/o BSR, Anne Mansfield, Deputy Executive Secretary, 3 St Andrew’s Place, Regents Park, London NW1 4LB. Tel: 071 224 3739. Fax: 071 224 0156

28-31 May 5th International symposium for health professionals in rheumatology on arthritis care, teamwork, quality of life, Lillehammer, Norway Contact: Lillemahger Association AS, PO Box 85, Jernbaneg 2, N-2601 Lillemhammer, Norway. Tel: 47 62 60601. Fax: 47 62 56585

1-4 June 25th Scandinavian congress of rheumatology, Lillemhammer, Norway Contact: Lillemahger Association AS, PO Box 85, Jernbaneg 2, N-2601 Lillemhammer, Norway. Tel: 47 62 60601. Fax: 47 62 56585


14-17 June 12th European immunology meeting, Barcelona, Spain Contact: 12th European Immunology Meeting, Immunology Department, Hospital Clinic Villarocol, 170, 08036 Barcelona, Spain

16-18 June VIIth National congress of rheumatology, Athens, Greece Contact: Congress Secretariat, Ms E Balas, Euro Conference Centre, Athens Tower, B’Bldg, 2-4 Mesogion Ave, 115 27 Athens, Greece. Tel: 301 7787539. Fax: 301 7774584

20-24 June IVth Bath conference on osteoporosis and bone mineral measurement, Bath Contact: Vanessa Collier, Conference Secretary, BCBMM, National Osteoporosis Society, PO Box 10, Radstock, Bath BA3 3YB, United Kingdom. Tel: 0761 432472. Fax: 0761 437903

Sep

EFIS Meeting, Barcelona, Spain Contact: 12th European Immunology Meeting, Congress Office, Inter Congress, Gran Via de Les Corts Catalanes 646, 08007 Barcelona, Spain

4-9 Sep 6th European regional conference of rehabilitation international, Budapest Contact: International Secretariat, ISM Ltd, The Old Vicarage, Haley Hill, Halifax, HX3 6DR. Tel: (44) 422 359161. Fax: (44) 422 355604

18-23 Sep XI PanAmerican congress of rheumatology—Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil Contact: Katia Pista de Queiroz, Rua Costa Pereira 9, Tijuca, Rio de Janeiro CEP 20511, Brazil. Tel: 021 2841642. Fax: 021 2642944

21-23 Sep BSR Heberden Round, Professor Maddison, Bath Contact: British Society for Rheumatology, Deputy Executive Secretary, 3 St Andrew’s Place, London NW1 4LB. Tel: 071 224 3739. Fax: 071 224 0156

29 Sep-2 Oct 20th Symposium of the European Society for Osteoarthritis, Bari, Italy Contact: The Secretariat, 20th ESOA Symposium, c/o Centro Internazionale Congressi, Viale Papa Pio XII, 18, 70125 Bari, Italy

12-14 Oct 6th European congress of medical thermology, the Guildhall, Bath, United Kingdom. Organised by the European Association of Thermology Contact: Dr F J Ring, Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Bath, United Kingdom. Fax: (44) 225 421202

13-15 Oct 5th Prague International Symposium, Prague, Czech Republic Contact: The Secretariat, Agentura Carolina Ltd, 95th Pipers’, Albertov 7, 120 00 Prague 2, Czech Republic. Tel: (42-2) 29 82 23, 29 40 52, 29 69 56. Fax: (42-2) 29 69 83

23-27 Oct American College of Rheumatology meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA Contact: American College of Rheumatology, Ron F Olejko, Director, Conferences and Meetings, 60 Executive Park South, NE, Suite 150, Atlanta, Georgia 30329, USA. Tel: 404 633 3777. Fax: 404 633 1870

9-12 Nov MaltaDerm 94, Valetta, Malta Contact: Secretariat MaltaDerm 94, University Department of Dermatology, Boffa Hospital, Floriana, Malta. Tel: (356) 23 47 98. Fax: (356) 24 75 16 or (356) 23 56 38

4-8 Dec 2nd APLAR symposium on the therapy of rheumatic diseases, Malaysia Contact: Ms Nina Sharma, Communication Consultants, 336 Smith Street, 06-302 New Bridge Centre, Singapore 0105. Tel: 02 2279811. Fax: 02 2270257

1995

26-31 Mar Fourth international conference on systemic lupus erythematosus, Jerusalem, Israel
new chapter on manipulation has been added to this second edition and is disappointingly negative with no mention of the controlled trials that have appeared in the English literature over recent years.

The chapter on chemonucleolysis is also very disappointing with only two references later than 1977 and none later than 1986. Admittedly, I am an enthusiast for this technique but to condemn a technique without references to double blind comparative studies, for example, Fraser R D, *Spine*, vol 7; 1982: 608–17, is unacceptable in a text of this size.

The high points of this book for me were the excellent chapter on electromyography which is well written and referenced and gives a balanced view of this useful and frequently forgotten investigation, and also Tom Mayers chapter on functional restoration in which he reviews the rehabilitation of the spine which is fundamental to the success of any surgical intervention.

Overall, I find it difficult to recommend this book which in parts is already out of date, is very surgically orientated and has a strong transatlantic bias.

Unlike the wines from California this book has not travelled well.

J R JENNER


This book represents the papers presented at the 1989 Fifth International Conference on Behcet’s disease. As such it is a set of conference proceedings rather than a book. It could therefore not be recommended to the novice reader who wishes to find out more about this disease. It is divided into four main sections but the quality of individual chapters varies enormously. The range is from single case reports, small case series, uncontrolled clinical trials through to properly conducted randomised trials. Unfortunately, most chapters tend to start with an introduction attempting to summarise the main features of Behcet’s syndrome, and this does get a little repetitive. The highlights of the book are chapter two, where diagnostic classification criteria have been analysed and compared; the overview chapter on T cell immunoregulation and microbial causes of Behcet’s disease (chapter 66) is also worthy of mention.

In the final section on treatment a number of protocols are suggested. Few of these, however, are properly controlled clinical trials, but those that are, are at an early stage as yet involving relatively small numbers. It seems a pity that the long term treatment with penicillin in 200 cases could not have been randomised (chapter 90). On the other hand, the chapter on topical alpha interferon treatment of oral ulcers seemed promising (chapter 92), but requires longer term follow up with larger numbers. Perhaps the most enlightening chapter was the survey on the treatment of Behcet’s disease (chapter 89) which highlights the vast heterogeneity of current clinical practice on its management.

The book certainly represents a huge world-wide experience of Behcet’s disease and therefore for the more experienced reader there are some elegant descriptions of some of the HLA associations of the clinical manifestations of the disease, experimental work on aetiology and pathogenesis, and some work on various treatment modalities.

RAASHID LUQMANI

**Book reviews**


“Lumbar disc lesions are not the sole cause of sciatica and lower back pain but merely the most frequent”. Most of us would accept this opening remark from an impressive looking second edition of this book on lumbar disc disease from the USA. To this could be added that the vast majority of these problems are either self limiting or respond to conservative treatment. To the rheumatologist the balance of this book will probably appear too surgically orientated, with 11 of the 31 chapters dealing solely with surgery of the spine. Many of the other chapters are very surgically orientated, including two salutary chapters on surgical complications. This is perhaps not surprising as the vast majority of the contributors are either neuro- or orthopaedic surgeons and the book is edited by a neurosurgeon.

The three chapters on conservative management are brief and two are written by surgeons and one by a neurologist. A