Notes/News – Book Review

PO Box 629, Willoughby, NSW 2068 Australia. Tel: 61 2417 8525. Fax 61 2417 8513

3–4 Apr International Conference on Therapeutic Advances in Osteoporosis and Hormone Replacement Therapy, London Contact: Rachel Stewart, The Conference Department, Charterhouse Conference and Communication Co. Tel: 071 606 2435. Fax: 071 606 2351

10–14 May Third International Symposium on the Immunotherapy of the Rheumatic Diseases, Cyprus Contact: Symposium Secretary, Rheumatology Unit, 4th Floor Hunt's House, Guy's Hospital, London SE1 9RT, United Kingdom. Tel: (071) 955 4394. Fax: (071) 407 5134.

27–31 May XXIVth European Symposium on Calcified Tissues, Aarhus, Denmark Contact: Dr L Mosekilde, Endokrinologisk Afdeling, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus Amtssygehus, Tage Hansensgade DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark

9–13 June 3Rd Workshop on Osteobiology: Cell-Matrix Interactions in Health and Disease, Italy Contact: Organising Secretariat, Medicina Viva Servizia Congressi s.r.l, Viale dei Colli, 955 4394, Aarhus, Denmark. Tel: (071) 955 4394. Fax: (071) 407 5134.

15–17 June Vth International Symposium on Sjögren's Disease, Noordwijkherout, The Netherlands Contact: A A Kruize, Department of Rheumatology F02.223, University Hospital Utrecht, PO Box 85500, 3508 GA Utrecht, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 30 507357. Fax: 31 30 523741

23–29 July UUIS Meeting, San Francisco, USA Contact: Congress Secretariat, 9th International Congress of Immunology 9650, Rockville Pike, Bethesda MD 20814, USA

10–17 Sep 3rd EULAR Postgraduate Course in Rheumatology Contact: Vienna Academy of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Vienna. Fax: 43 1 42 13 83 23

17–22 Sep Inflammation '95; Second World Congress on Inflammation, Brighton Deadline for abstracts and registration: 7 April 1995 Contact: Inflammation '95, c/o Kay Dorelli, Triangle House, Broomhill Road, London SW18 4HX. Tel: 081 877 9920. Fax: 081 877 9308

28–30 Sep International Congress on Rheumatoid Arthritis, Bari, Italy Contact: Centro Italiano Congressi CIC Sud, Via Camillo Rosalbo Trav, 47/e n 28, Bari, Italy. Tel: 39 80 5043737

15–18 Oct 2nd AFLAR Congress of Rheumatology, Tunisia Contact: 2ème Congrès Africain de Rhumatologie, BP. 131, 2091 El Menzah VI 2091, Tunis. Tel: 216 1 260 432/216 1 893 895. Fax: 216 1 510 636

22–26 Oct American College of Rheumatology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California Contact: American College of Rheumatology, Ronald F Olejko, Director, Conferences and Meetings, 60 Executive Park South, Suite 150, Atlanta, Georgia 30329, USA. Tel: 404 633 3777. Fax: 404 633 1870

22–27 Oct Vth International Conference on the Chemistry and Biology of Mineralised Tissues, Kohler, Wisconsin Contact: Linda Keller, The University of Texas and Health Science Centre at San Antonio, 7703 Floyd Curl Drive, San Antonio TX 78284-7823. Fax: 210 546 2052


4–7 Dec British Society for Immunology Annual Congress, Brighton Contact: Mrs K Dorelli, 2 Triangle House, 2 Broomhill Road, London SW18 4HX. Tel: 081 877 9920. Fax: 081 877 9308

Book review


This is the long awaited updated edition of Graham Hughes’ popular book on the connective tissue diseases. As with previous volumes, the book is divided into 15 chapters, covering most of the systemic connective tissue disorders from lupus to rare conditions such as angiitis of the CNS. A whole chapter is also devoted to rheumatoid arthritis. A helpful appendix is included, giving a brief account of the methodology and the clinical significance of the more common immunological tests used in rheumatology.

A unifying format is used throughout the book: each chapter begins with an introduction, followed by a brief historical background, epidemiology, pathology, aetio-pathogenesis, clinical features, investigations, differential diagnoses, management, and ending with prognosis. The style is highly readable. The bibliography is comprehensive, and references to recent excellent review articles are included to whet the appetites of the more enthusiastic readers. In particular, I enjoyed the case histories, which help to bridge the gap between theory and clinical practice and would, I am sure, make the book attractive to medical students as well as novice rheumatologists.

The chapters are generally well illustrated but, unfortunately, no colour plates are included. Most of the chapters have been extensively updated, especially chapter 4, on the antiphospholipid syndrome. Systemic lupus is amply addressed. However, the repeated reference to antiphospholipid antibodies was rather tiresome. The unwary reader might be misled to think that lupus is caused by these antibodies! Overall, there is a heavy bias towards rheumatological practices in St Thomas' Hospital and I was amused by the occasional unsubstantiated claims, for example, 'septrin provocation test' in the diagnosis of Sjögren's syndrome.

Nevertheless, this book is a very useful first source of reference for students, scientists, and general physicians, as well as the budding rheumatologist. I can thoroughly recommend it for all with a passing, or even passionate, interest in the connective tissue diseases.

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