- 26-29 Jun 1st European Congress of MRI in Joint Diseases, Portoroz, Slovenia
Contact: Prof B Rozman, Dept of Rheumatology, Dr Peter Drzaj Hospital, Vodnikova 62, 1107 Ljubljana, Slovenia. Tel: (386 61) 555 256. Fax: (386 61) 1595 338
- 8-14 Sep 4th EULAR Postgraduate Course in Rheumatology, Prague
Contact: Mr F Wyss, EULAR Secretariat, Witikonstrasse 15, CH-8032 Zürich, Switzerland. Tel: +41 1 383 9690. Fax: +41 1 383 9810
- 11-12 Sep BSR Heberden Round, Belfast
Contact: Ms Anne Mansfield, Deputy General Secretary, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR. Tel: 0171242 3313. Fax: 0171242 3277
- 18-20 Sep Swiss Society of Rheumatology, Annual Meeting, Basel
Contact: Mrs Gisela Dalvit, Schweizerische Rheumaliga, Renggerstr. 71, CH-8038 Zürich, Switzerland. Tel: +41 1 482 5600. Fax: 41 1 482 6439
- 9-13 Nov 61st American College of Rheumatology AGM, Washington DC, USA
Contact: Ronald F Olejko, Director of Conferences and Meetings, 60 Executive Park South, Suite 150, Atlanta, Georgia 30329, USA. Tel: 404 633 3777. Fax: 404 633 1870
- 19-22 Nov Xth EULAR Symposium: New Anti-inflammatory and Immuno-modulating Agents: Clinical and Experimental Aspects, Benefits and Risks, Vienna, Austria
Contact: EULAR Secretariat, Witikonstrasse 15, CH-8032 Zurich, Switzerland. Tel: 41 1 383 9690. Fax: 41 1 383 9810
- In 1998**
- 22-24 Apr BSR XVth AGM, Brighton
Contact: Ms Anne Mansfield, Deputy General Secretary, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR. Tel: 0171242 3313. Fax: 0171242 3277
- 21-26 Jun XIIth Pan-American Congress of Rheumatology, Montreal, Canada
Contact: PANLAR, c/o Sorelcomm (1985) Inc., 4446 St Laurent Boulevard, Suite 704, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2W 1Z5. Tel: 514 499 8920. Fax: 514 499 8921
- 23-26 Jun XIth EULAR Symposium: Atypical Arthritides: a Multi-disciplinary Approach, Geneva, Switzerland
Contact: Eular Secretariat, Witikonstrasse 15, CH-8032 Zurich, Switzerland. Tel: 41 1 383 9690. Fax: 41 1 383 9810
- 8-12 Nov 62nd American College of Rheumatology AGM, San Diego, USA
Contact: Ronald F Olejko, Director of Conferences and Meetings, 60 Executive Park South, Suite 150, Atlanta, Georgia 30329, USA. Tel: 404 633 3777. Fax: 404 633 1870

Book review

The vasculitides: science and practice. B M Ansell, J T Lie, H Yazici, eds. (Pp 447; £75.00.) Andover: Chapman & Hall, 1996. ISBN 0-412-64140-2.

Went to the conference (Istanbul, Turkey, June 1994), got the free T shirt and now the book! What more could I ask? Answer: someone else to write review for ARD as another deadline slips by.

Books addressing the clinical, pathogenetic, and therapeutic complexities of the vasculitic disorders are few and far between. A comprehensive textbook, however, this is not, but more a series of personal viewpoints and local audits highlighted by titles such as "Kawasaki syndrome: the Florentine experience". Continuing this theme, "Mainline the Birmingham way" would have been a more descriptive title for chapter 23 on the "Therapy of vasculitis". In fairness, however, there is no consensus on cyclophosphamide regimes and hence such an approach can be justified, giving the reader the practical aspects of giving such treatment.

The editors should be commended on their success in imposing a consistent readable style to this compilation of conference proceedings and getting them published within 18 months of the conference. The book is a good record of present day clinical practice in the vasculitic disorders and provided the reader recognises that we understand little of their pathogenesis, lack diagnostic tests (except for certain tissue biopsies) or a consensus for therapeutic strategies, then the book is a valuable read. The so called "new" classification based on the type and vascular distribution of vasculitic

lesions is in fact an old approach and again emphasises our inability to fully understand the complex disorders. The general physician attempting to diagnose these vasculitic disorders faces an uphill battle with no really specific and sensitive tests.

The antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody assay (ANCA) continues to gain in popularity, and chapter 4 emphasises the poor specificity of pANCA. As mimics of vasculitis are increasingly recognised, a section related to such disorders would have been useful to those generalists delving into this book.

There is a section devoted to immunosuppression in the management of vasculitis but this does not address issues such as how much immunosuppression we should aim for, how should this be assessed, and at what cost in terms of opportunistic infections, infertility, etc.

It is easy to be critical but I did enjoy reading the book and updating myself on the sessions I had missed. Why did I miss them you might ask? Concurrent sessions I might answer, but that would not always have been the case. Istanbul was a fascinating city and as I opened this book on vasculitis I half expected to experience the aroma of mosques, particularly the carpets on which barefooted individuals have trodden over the centuries.

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