Notes/News

European Rheumatologists in Training (EULAR Standing Committee for Education and Training)

EURORITS Travel Bursary Scheme was established to improve the interaction between junior rheumatologists in different European countries and increase their awareness, knowledge, and experience of rheumatology as practised throughout Europe. To enable this, the EULAR Standing Committee for Education and Training will help arrange visits of one to two weeks to centres in the other European countries and, if possible, offer a travel bursary. These visits can be to any centre of choice, but several departments in various European countries have been identified who are prepared to occasionally host such visits. Their details are available on request. For more information, contact Dr A D Woolf, Chairman, EULAR Standing Committee for Education and Training, Duke of Cornwall Rheumatology Unit, Royal Cornwall Hospital (City), Truro TR1 2HZ. Fax: +44 (0) 1872 222 857.

Forthcoming events

- 21-25 May Fourth 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: +44 (0)171 955 4394. Fax: +44 (0)171955 2472
- 7 Jun 3rd International OARS Congress, Singapore
Contact: Evie Altman-Orbach, OARS. Tel: +301 718 1836. Fax: +301 913 2805
- 8-13 Jun XIX OARS/ILAR Congress of Rheumatology, Singapore
Contact: ILAR'97 Secretariat, Communication Consultants, 336 Smith Street, No 06-302, New Bridge Centre, Singapore 0105, Republic of Singapore. Tel: +65 227 9811. Fax: +65 227 0257
- 19-22 Jun 4th International Symposium on Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam
Contact: Congress Secretariat, Amsterdam RAI-OBA, PO Box 77777, 1070 MS Amsterdam. Tel +31 20 549 1212. Fax: +31 20 646 4469
- 22-25 Jun 13th European Immunology Meeting, Amsterdam
Contact: Congress Secretariat, Amsterdam RAI-OBA, PO Box 77777, 1070 MS Amsterdam. Tel +31 20 549 1212. Fax: +31 20 646 4469
- 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

- 3-6 Sep 9th ERASS Congress, Prague
Contact: Organising Secretariat, Kultours, Na Zderaze 6, 12000 Praha 2, Czech Republic. Tel: +42 2 294089 or 297240. Fax: +42 2 297227
- 4-5 Sep Work Related Arm Pain, Nottingham
Contact: Conference Nottingham, Regent House, Clinton Avenue, Nottingham NG5 1AZ. Tel: +44 (0)115 985 6545. Fax: + (0)115 985 6533
- 4-6 Sep Microbes, Autoimmunity and Chronic Inflammation. Clinical and experimental aspects with relevance for rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden.
Contact: Camilla Johannesson, The Swedish Society of Medicine, PO Box 738, S-101 35 Stockholm, Sweden. Tel: +46 8 440 88 60. Fax: +46 8 440 88 99
- 8-15 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: +44 (0)171242 3313. Fax: +44 (0)171242 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
- 15-18 Oct 5th European Conference on Pediatric Rheumatology, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
Contact: Prof Hans Truckenbrodt, Rheumakinderklinik, Gehfeldstrasse 24, D-82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. Tel: +49 (0)8821 701244. Fax: +49 (0)8821 73916
- 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: +1 404 633 3777. Fax: +1 404 633 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
- 24-26 Nov 10th French Congress of Rheumatology, Paris
Contact: Secretariat Administratif de la Societe Francaise de Rhumatologie, Hopital de la

- Pitie, Pavillon Layani, 83 Boulevard de l'Hopital, 75651 Paris Cedex 13, France. Tel: +33 1 45 863058. Fax: +33 1 45 863359
- 3-7 Dec Rheumaderm '97, Valletta, Malta
Contact: Ms Josepha Cremona, University of Malta Medical School, Department of Dermatology, Boffa Hospital, Floriana, Malta. Tel: +356 23 47 98. Fax: +356 23 47 98
- 10-13 Dec American Back Society Annual Meeting, San Francisco
Contact: Aubrey A Swartz, American Back Society, 2647 East 14th Street, Suite 401, Oakland, California 94601, USA. Tel: +510 536 9929. Fax: +510 536 1812
- In 1998**
- 18-22 Jan 3rd APLAR Symposium on the Therapy of Rheumatic Diseases/5th Asian Congress of Rheumatology, Manila
Contact: 5th RAA/3rd APLAR Secretariat, c/o Philippine Congress Organising Centre, 2nd floor, Physicians Tower, 533 United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila, the Philippines. Fax: +63 2 522 1090
- 22-24 Apr BSR XVth AGM, Brighton
Contact: Ms Anne Mansfield, Deputy General Secretary, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR. Tel: +44 (0)171242 3313. Fax: +44 (0)171242 3277
- 11-13 May 9th Mediterranean Congress of Rheumatology, Dubrovnik, Croatia
Contact: Professor Ivo Jajic, Department of Rheumatology, University Hospital "Sestre milosrdnice", Vinogradska 29, 10000-Zagreb, Croatia. Fax: +385 1 172453
- 5-8 Jun 27th Scandinavian Congress of Rheumatology, Aarhus, Denmark
Contact: Dr Kristian Stengaard-Pedersen, Department of Rheumatology, Aarhus University Hospital, Randers Vej 1, DK-82000 Aarhus N, Denmark. Tel: +45 8949 4225. Fax: +45 8949 4210
- 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: +1 514 499 8920. Fax: +1 514 499 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
- 8-11 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: +1 404 633 3777. Fax: +1 404 633 1870
- In 1999**
- 6-12 Jun XIVth European Congress of Rheumatology, Glasgow
Contact: Ms Anne Mansfield, Deputy General Secretary, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR. Tel: +44 (0)171 242 3313. Fax: +44 (0)171242 3277
- 24-28 Oct 63rd American College of Rheumatology AGM, New Orleans, USA
Contact: Ronald F Olejko, Director of Conferences and Meetings, 60 Executive Park South, Suite 150, Atlanta, Georgia 30329, USA. Tel: +1 404 633 3777. Fax: +1 404 633 1870
- In 2000**
- 12-16 Nov 64th American College of Rheumatology AGM, Philadelphia, USA
Contact: Ronald F Olejko, Director of Conferences and Meetings, 60 Executive Park South, Suite 150, Atlanta, Georgia 30329, USA. Tel: +1 404 633 3777. Fax: +1 404 633 1870

Book reviews

Cutaneous Manifestations of Rheumatic Diseases. Edited by R D Sontheimer and T T Provost. (Pp 528; £116.) Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1996. ISBN 0-683-07852-6.

The idea for a monograph devoted exclusively to the cutaneous manifestations of rheumatic diseases was conceived by Professor James Gilliam, late Chairman of the Department of Dermatology at University of Texas-Southwestern Medical

School. This monograph has now been written by his friends and colleagues and is dedicated to the memory of a superb clinical investigator and mentor who suffered an untimely death from cancer. The aims of the editors of this monograph are dual: to provide a comprehensive review of the cutaneous manifestations of disorders that concurrently affect the skin and the musculoskeletal system and to provide a pictorial atlas of these disorders through the use of 253 photographs, 222 of which are in colour. The book was written exclusively by

dermatologists (16 of the 17 authors have academic appointments in the United States) but is intended for both rheumatologists and dermatologists.

Two thirds of the book are devoted to systemic and neonatal lupus erythematosus, dermatomyositis, scleroderma, Sjögren's syndrome, scleroderma, and systemic vasculitides. For each of these diseases, the discussions are structured into subsections devoted to classification, epidemiology, cutaneous manifestations, pathology, aetiopathogenesis, differential diagnosis, and management. The relation between the cutaneous and systemic features of lupus, dermatomyositis, and systemic vasculitis is also discussed. These chapters are excellent, comprehensive current reviews of their topics. They summarise important recent advances in classifying and defining the cutaneous immunopathology of these disorders. The chapter on systemic lupus erythematosus, organised on the basis of Professor Gilliam's classification of lupus erythematosus skin lesions, provides an excellent synthesis of our current understanding of the clinical, serological, and genetic features and management of the subacute and chronic cutaneous lupus subsets. The extensive chapter on vasculitis includes a useful comparison of the clinical evolution of lesions caused by vasculitis and non-inflammatory vascular occlusion in the skin. The chapter on dermatomyositis includes discussions of the relation between myositis associated autoantibodies and myositis subsets, amyopathic dermatomyositis, and the emerging role of magnetic resonance imaging in the evaluation of these patients. Comprehensive reviews focusing on the cutaneous manifestations of the connective tissue diseases are not currently available in the standard textbooks of dermatology or rheumatology. The discussions of other rheumatic disorders are not as comprehensive as those relating to the connective tissue diseases. There are no figures to illustrate the toxic erythemas associated with Still's disease or acute rheumatic fever. The section on Reiter's disease omits mention of the unusual severity of this disease in HIV infected patients and the dilemma that this poses in choosing appropriate therapy. Circinate balanitis and early lesions of keratoderma blenorrhagicum are not illustrated. New insights into disease pathogenesis, which have been garnered from studies of transgenic rat models and the discovery of persistent microbial antigens in synovial tissue are not mentioned. The discussion of psoriatic arthritis makes no mention of therapy, a topic of particular interest because different anti-arthritic agents may exacerbate the skin disease. For readers who are not dermatologists, it would have been helpful to emphasise differential diagnosis, including evaluation of a malar eruption or the distinction between erythema marginatum and the rash of Still's disease.

This monograph succeeds amply in meeting the aims of its editors. The monograph fills a definite gap in the current repertoire of rheumatology and dermatology texts and receives my strong recommendation. As this is the first edition, minor deficiencies mentioned above will probably be corrected in subsequent editions, of which I suspect there will be many.

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Silicone Breast Implant Story. By Marsha L Vanderford and David H Smith. (Pp 218; \$19.95.) Mahwah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum, 1996. ISBN 0-8058-1707-7.

This book, subtitled 'communication and uncertainty', is a treatise on how information about silicone breast implants was conveyed to and obtained by the public. The topic of silicone implants remains a highly charged and controversial issue. Opinion in the medical community continues to be divided as to whether or not the implants cause disease. Perhaps the most

interesting aspect of this issue for rheumatologists concerns the medical and scientific arguments that can be constructed from both sides of the debate. Equally fascinating are the serpentine political and legal ramifications. The book under review, however, ignores these obvious angles and approaches the topic from a completely different perspective, which is interesting in its own right. The issue at hand is really how increasingly complex medical-scientific information gets presented to the public in general and, more specifically, to patients. The authors seem to contend that when it comes to the silicone implant issue, neither the implant manufacturers, the plastic surgeons nor the news media have adequately communicated the benefits and the risks of these cosmetic devices. This argument is well documented in the book and is probably correct.

The authors claim that they were inspired to produce this work after receiving inquiries from plastic surgeons in Florida regarding the ethics of removing silicone breast implant from women who were otherwise healthy. These women were presumably concerned about possible adverse health risks from the silicone based upon information generated by the media. In the prologue, the authors describe themselves as 'scholars in the health field' and for the rest of the book they refer to themselves as Dave and Marsha. We are told that Marsha did interviews with the women so they would feel comfortable discussing sexual topics. We learn nothing else about the authors except their academic affiliations (Dave is at Hong Kong Baptist University, a connection that aroused my curiosity). Ordinarily I would not be concerned about the lack of an MD or PhD behind the author's name, but the book that follows unfolds information and even data that are somewhat softer than the type of scientific work that physicians might have anticipated. The style also lacks the bite of an investigative report from a seasoned journalist.

In this controversial environment the authors go out of their way to maintain a tight and occasionally artificial balance between the two sides of the issue. In chapter 8 for example they find fault with one of the major implant manufacturers, which when attacked by the media, failed to offer 'additional examples of research that revealed implant safety.' As is typical in the book, the authors see this as a public relations problem when in fact, the manufacturers could not come up with enough safety data to satisfy the Food and Drug Administration, therefore leading to the removal of implants from the US market. There has not even been clear cut agreement upon numbers regarding such basic problems as the percentage of implants that harden or rupture. 'Several women related to me that they had been informed prior to having their implants that the chance of sustaining a rupture was 1:10 000. New information indicates that this figure may be as high as 50% or even greater.' If one can get past these examples of superficial and somewhat misleading analysis, the book is of interest.

The book can be roughly divided into two halves with the second being far more valuable than the first. From the very beginning we are told that the 'narrative concept' will be used and we will be treated to a 'series of stories.' The first half of the book contains condensed interviews of patients who have had both positive and negative experiences with their implants, and snippets of physician commentary on both sides of the controversy. These vignettes are a dry read and are often truncated to the point of lacking the pathos of a true to life story.

The second half of the book is an analysis of how the news media presented the implant issue to the public. Almost all the news references are from 1992 or earlier, which was the very initial part of this controversy. The authors accumulated news items about implants from the local Tampa Bay, Florida area and national press. They tabulated the number of positive and negative statements about implants and came to the conclusion that the negative ones predominated. The methodology is never delineated and no weight was given to different sources. Stories from national nightly news, for example, may have had more influence than a story in a local

newspaper. The authors then sampled 400 women in the Tampa Bay area and administered a questionnaire about attitude towards implants and the women who have them. As soft as these data appear to be, some interesting conclusions were drawn that are food for thought. Although women portrayed themselves as uncertain about the safety and hazards of implants, they overwhelmingly rejected the thought of having this operation for themselves, even if they were sure that the implants were safe. The participants in the survey also did not seem to think that the women with implants who had filed lawsuits were mostly motivated by money.

Although much of the information presented in this book is far from hard data, the book will be of interest to those who

are particularly concerned about communication with patients and the mixed blessings of media derived patient information. It is a work that provokes more thought than a text to be referenced.

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