

accepted association between skin dryness and sweat gland dysfunction in SS.

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members affected by brucellosis<sup>3</sup> and in patients with brucellar spondylitis.<sup>4</sup> None of these studies showed linkage between brucellosis caused by *B melitensis*, with or without arthritis, and the HLA system.

The increased frequency of A2 in brucellosis patients, observed by Dawes and Ghosh<sup>1</sup>, and of B27 in brucellar spondylitis, reported by Hodinka *et al.*,<sup>5</sup> are in contrast with our findings but might be explained by the different antigenic structures of *B abortus* and *B melitensis*<sup>6</sup> and/or the genetic background of the populations studied.

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## Tissue typing in brucellosis

SIR, We read with interest the article by Dawes and Ghosh on tissue typing in brucellosis.<sup>1</sup> The lack of association between reactive arthritis due to acute *B abortus* infection and HLA antigens, reported by them, confirms our observations in patients infected by *B melitensis*.<sup>2</sup> In order to define the genetics of this condition we have recently performed HLA typing in families with two or more

## Book reviews

**Psoriasis.** Eds. Henry H Roenigk Jr and Howard I Maibach. Pp. 688. US\$ 126.00. Dekker: New York. 1985.

This book is the fifth in a series aimed at satisfying a need perceived by the editors for a series of textbooks devoted to subspecialties within dermatology, and is aimed ambitiously both at the clinician and at the researcher.

The book is undoubtedly comprehensive, although I found the order in which the sections appear a little baffling: I had always been taught to think of the epidemiology of a disease before the clinical features, but perhaps that is a personal quirk. As such, the information contained within the book is potentially invaluable—the

problem is finding it. I tested the index by listing 10 items I felt to be relevant: streptococcus, arthritis mutilans, sacroiliitis, geographic tongue, and alopecia as 'clinical' topics, and phosphodiesterase, calmodulin, T lymphocytes, extracorporeal photochemotherapy, and epidermal differentiation as 'research' topics. Only two of these items are listed in the index at all! This makes it impossible to recommend the book as a reference source, which is unfortunate because reading through it is interesting, rewarding, and at times provocative.

As always with edited collections of contributions from many authors the standard varies. It seems odd that references are listed in at least three different styles, and it is very rare that any reference later than 1983 is found. I suspect the book has been overlong in gestation. In general