

Notes and news

5th French annual congress of rheumatology

The 5th French annual congress of rheumatology, organised by the French Society of Rheumatology, will be held in Paris, France, from 25 to 27 November 1992, at the Centre International de Conférences Cite des Sciences et de l'Industrie de la Villette.

For information and registration apply to the Secretariat de la Société Française de Rhumatologie, Service de Rhumatologie, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire, 59037 Lille Cedex, France. Tel: 20 44 61 10. Fax: (16) 20 42 05 27.

Rheumatology Aid to Eastern Europe (RAEE)

As readers will be aware, our colleagues in Eastern Europe face increasing (in some cases dire) problems in obtaining many things that we in the West take for granted—for example, ready access to journals and books and to continuing medical education.

British rheumatologists (among others) might well have considered the plight of their east European colleagues, might have wanted to help, and not known how to go about it. Here's how.

Taking a leaf out of the book of our ophthalmological colleagues who have successfully set up Ophthalmic Aid to East Europe (OAEE), it is proposed to launch a rheumatological equivalent.

(i) *Rheumatology journals*: Would anyone who disposes of journals once they have read them be prepared to mail them regularly to a named individual or institution in eastern Europe?

(ii) *Textbooks and monographs*: Unwanted recent (not necessarily the latest) editions of these are also very much needed. Would individuals or publishing houses willing to part with these be prepared likewise to mail them to those in need?

(iii) *Continuing medical education*: RAEE would like to organise short weekend postgraduate courses at selected centres in eastern Europe. Volunteers are needed to take part.

The plan is for potential donors to be matched on computer to potential recipients. Offers please by letter or fax addressed to: RAEE, Rheumatology Unit, Guy's Hospital, London SE1 9RT. Fax No: 071 407 7532.

Second intensive course on applied epidemiology

This EULAR approved course, which will be held from 30 November to 4 December 1992, is being organised by the ARC epidemiology research unit in Manchester. It is the second intensive course for rheumatologists on the application of epidemiology relevant to the specialty. No prior experience in epidemiology is required. The course is residential and is limited to 20 places.

For further details and an application form, please contact: Margaret Fullalove, ARC Epidemiology Research Unit, Stopford Building, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PT, United Kingdom. Tel: 061 275 5040. Fax: 061 275 5043.

Advanced course in rheumatology

The British Society for Rheumatology are holding an advanced course in rheumatology from 18 to 20 May 1992 at Holly Royde College, Manchester, United Kingdom. Excellent accommodation with car parking is available at the college.

Main topics are epidemiological considerations; the value and methods of classification; immunogenetics of rheumatic disease; pathology of synovial fluid; reviews of SLE; Sjögren's syndrome, scleroderma; review of recent therapeutic ideas; childhood arthritis and connective tissue diseases; soft tissue rheumatism; osteoporosis. The programme is suitable for consultants and senior registrars in rheumatology.

For further details and an application form please contact: Dr P J L Holt, Department of Rheumatology, University of Manchester Medical School, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PT, United Kingdom. Tel: 061 275 5272. Fax: 061 275 5043.

Book review

A Concise International History of Rheumatology and Rehabilitation: Friends and Foes. George D Kersley, John Howard Glyn. (Pp 150; £12.95, hardback; £7.95, paperback.) London: Royal Society of Medicine, 1991. ISBN 1-85315-141-6 (hardback); 1-85315-140-8 (paperback).

For those in training, concerned about the future of clinical rheumatology, this will be an interesting light read. Examination of the past will give clues for the future and the rheumatological past is examined here; the anxious trainee will see that there is nothing new on this earth.

Possibly a misnomer, the international nature of these 149 pages is covered in six pages for the USA alone and 15 for much of the rest of the world.

The problems of an evolving specialty within the National Health Service are covered in detail and with personal commitment. The events leading to the formulation of the BSR may fascinate those not involved at the time.

An odd volume including a history of antirheumatic drugs and biographies of past presidents, orators, and other luminaries—a number of errors appear. Professor Sturrock will be alarmed to find that his chair has been moved 250 miles south! (p 135).

Despite a certain bias towards the west country, a readable volume.

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