Notes and news

The VIIth Alessandro Robecchi International Prize
This prize, in memory of Professor Alessandro Robecchi, will be presented during the XIIIth Congress of the European League Against Rheumatism in Amsterdam during June 1995. The prize rewards clinical, biological and experimental research in rheumatology and is confined to medical works published within the past four years (or accepted for publication). Value of the prize: 4 million Italian lire.
Deadline date: 31 December 1994.
Seven full copies must be submitted, in Italian, French, German, Spanish or English, but should include an English summary. Further details from: Professor Stefano Di Vittorio, Divisione di Rheumatologia, Ospedale Maggiore di San Giovanni Battista, Corso Bramante 88, 10126 Torino, Italy.

Forthcoming events

In 1995
2–4 Mar Biologic Agents in Autoimmune Diseases IV, San Francisco, California, USA
Contact: Marianne H Kaple, MEd, Arthritis Foundation, 1314 Spring Street, NW Atlanta, Georgia 30309, USA. Tel: (404) 872-7100 ext. 6296. Fax: (404) 872-04571
9–10 Mar Work related arm pain—a critical evaluation of causation, Nottingham University, Nottingham
Contact: Mr Tim Davis, University Department of Orthopaedics, Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham NG7 2UH. Tel: (0) 602 709448
26–31 Mar Fourth international conference on systemic lupus erythematosus, Jerusalem, Israel
Contact: Fourth International Conference on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel
4–7 Apr BSR XIIIth AGM, Glasgow
Contact: British Society for Rheumatology, Anne Mansfield, Deputy Executive Secretary, 3 St Andrew’s Place, London NW1 4LB. Tel: 071 224 3739. Fax: 071 224 0156
7 Apr British Health Professionals in Rheumatology AGM during BSR AGM
Contact: British Health Professionals in Rheumatology, c/o BSR, Anne Mansfield, Deputy Executive Secretary, 3 St Andrew’s Place, Regents Park, London NW1 4LB. Tel: 071 224 3739. Fax: 071 224 0156
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 International Congress on Rehabilitation Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey
Contact: Prof Dr Onder Kayhan, Congress Secretariat, PO Box 1 81021 Kosuyolu, Istanbul, Turkey. Tel: 90 216 3263443. Fax: 90 216 3263443
18–22 June 22nd annual meeting of The International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine, Helsinki, Finland
Contact: Dr Bjorn Rydevik, ISSLS, Sunnybrook Medical Centre, Room A 309, 2075 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4N 3M5. Tel: 416-480-4833. Fax: 416-480-6055
18–24 June 13th European congress of rheumatology (EULAR), Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Contact: EUROCONGRES, Koningslaan 52, NL-1075 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel: 31(0)20 6793411. Fax: 31(0)20 6737306
30 July–3 Aug 3rd World congress on myofascial pain and fibromyalgia, San Antonio, Texas, USA
Contact: Jon Russell, MD, PhD, Chairman, Organising Committee, Department of Medicine, University of Texas Health Science Center, 7703 Floyd Curl Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78284-7874, USA. Tel: (210) 567 4661. Fax: (210) 567 4654
14–15 Sep Heberden Round, Dr T Hothersall, Keele University
Contact: British Society for Rheumatology, Anne Mansfield, Deputy Executive Secretary, 3 St Andrew’s Place, Regents Park, London NW1 4LB. Tel: 071 224 3739. Fax: 071 224 0156

Book reviews


How refreshing! A book dedicated to the cervical spine and edited and largely written by a rheumatologist, Dr John Bland—an American who has many other strings to his bow, having come to rheumatology from general medicine. This has resulted in a book that is balanced in its attention to pathological anatomy, clinical diagnosis, and conservative treatment. Surgical management that all too often dominates books devoted to management of spinal conditions is dealt with appropriately under the relevant section, with a whole chapter appropriately devoted to the surgical management of the rheumatoid spine.

Dr Bland has personally dissected 197 pathological specimens of the spine and provides a fascinating insight to the pathological changes in the cervical spine. He has made me rethink a number of preconceived ideas, including whether or not the joints of Lushka exist . . .

At any time, 12% of women and 9% of men in a population are suffering from neck pain with or without associated arm pain. The problem orientated clinical section includes a chapter on rheumatological neuropathy—a specialty which I have always believed to be a magnitude more difficult than a standard neurological examination. It is well known that 80% of pain free subjects over the age of 50 have radiographic evidence of cervical spondylosis. This makes the radiological investigation of neck pain particularly difficult, but the problem is dealt with in an excellent chapter on the radiological investigation of the cervical spine.

My only disappointment was the chapter on electrodiagnosis. This chapter, unlike all the others, is sadly without a reference and gives the impression that the author is one of the many non-enlightened electrophysiologists who believes...