23–27 Oct American College of Rheumatology, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
Contact: American College of Rheumatology, Ron F Olevko, Director, Conferences and Meetings, 60 Executive Park South, NE, Suite 150, Atlanta, Georgia 30329, USA. Tel: 404 633 3777, Fax: 404 633 1870

9–12 Nov MaltaDerm 94, Valetta, Malta
Contact: Secretariat MaltaDerm 94, University Department of Dermatology, Boffa Hospital, Floriana, Malta. Tel: (356) 23 47 98. Fax: (356) 24 75 16 or (356) 23 56 38

4–8 Dec 2nd APLAR symposium on the therapy of rheumatic diseases, Malaysia
Contact: Ms Nina Sharma, Communication Consultants, 336 Smith Street, 06–302 New Bridge Centre, Singapore 0105. Tel: 02 2279811. Fax: 02 2270257

In 1995

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 XIIth AGM, Glasgow
Contact: British Society for Rheumatology, Anne Mansfied, 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 Mansfied, Deputy Executive Secretary, 3 St Andrew’s Place, Regents Park, London NW1 4LB. Tel: 071 224 3739. Fax: 071 224 0156

18–24 June 13th European congress of rheumatology (EULAR), Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Contact: EUROCONGRES, Koninginlaan 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 Mansfied, Deputy Executive Secretary, 3 St Andrew’s Place, Regents Park, London NW1 4LB. Tel: 071 224 3739. Fax: 071 224 0156

22–26 Oct American College of Rheumatology annual meeting, San Francisco, California, USA
Contact: American College of Rheumatology, Ron F Olevko, Director, Conferences and Meetings, 60 Executive Park South, NE, Suite 150, Atlanta, Georgia 30329, USA. Tel: 404 633 3777. Fax: 404 633 1870

Book reviews


This monograph sets out to analyse the renal aspects of collagen-vascular diseases but also includes the pathogenesis, clinical features and therapeutic measures in addition to a detailed analysis of renal manifestations.

Perhaps the introductory chapter is a little too brief in dealing with the inter-relationship of the various disorders which have been included under the heading ‘collagen-vascular diseases’. This is, however, more than compensated for by the excellence of the other 10 chapters, most of which deal systematically with the individual categories of collagen disease and, particularly, their renal aspects. The chapters are well referenced and the illustrations are generally very good although an occasional figure appears to be slightly out of focus.

Systemic lupus is amply addressed considering experimental models, pathogenesis and the detailed renal aspects. However, it is some of the other chapters on lupus-like syndromes, scleroderma and mixed connective tissue disease that I found particularly intriguing.

There is a separate chapter dealing with general immunology and pathogenesis of collagen diseases. It illustrates very well the fact that, although we have an abundance of information about these disorders, there is still a great deal to be discovered. A consistent theme of the book is that these conditions are associated with defects in both cellular and humoral immunity. In addition, a variety of overlap syndromes occur indicating a close similarity of pathogenesis despite the variety of different clinical expressions which may occur. The renal aspects are important in this differential expression of immune defects.

I can recommend this book to those who are interested in the renal aspects of systemic connective tissue diseases.

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D R TURNER


The subject of immunotherapy is becoming very important both for basic immunologists and for clinicians interested in improving the treatment of rheumatic and other autoimmune diseases. The 25 chapters in this book are written by experts on the various aspects of the pathogenesis and immune-based therapy of autoimmune disease and is edited by a well-respected authority in the field.

At first glance the book would appear to have a wide readership. Unfortunately, I think it is too detailed for those who are merely interested, particularly if they do not have a substantial background in immunology. For workers in the field, it may be preferable to read the original papers and indeed many of the chapters are merely rehashes of the contributors own published work, rather than reviews of the whole of a particular aspect of immunotherapy or autoimmunity.

The chapters that give genuine reviews are the most interesting and make it worth a browse. The book may be most relevant to those who are starting out on a serious project in the field, particularly for the large number of valuable references cited; unfortunately, many are now two years old.

Overall, this is a book to borrow and selectively read rather than purchase.

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GABRIELLE KINGSLEY

Notes and news/Book reviews