In April 1994 the European Board met in Brighton, UK, and agreed to amalgamate the Executive, the membership, and activities of the Specialty Section and its Board.

3. Programme of the European Board of Rheumatology
The Executive has identified the following goals and plan of action:

1. To harmonise training programmes for specialists in Europe
2. To develop a common core curriculum
3. To prepare a common European schedule for inspection of training posts, centres, and trainers
4. To participate in the development, appraisal, and accreditation of continuing medical education
5. To form links with other European professional and scientific societies, including EULAR, and seek to establish areas of common interest and collaboration.

4. Prior achievements of the rheumatology section of the UEMS include:
- Developing a charter on training medical specialists
- Defining a unified approach to the number of years spent in general professional and specialist rheumatology training
- Ensuring that specialist training is based on full-time funded posts and not on ad hoc part-time unsalaried positions
- Encouraging joint inspection of posts as a means to achieve a better quality of training
- Identifying rheumatology as a specialty distinct from general (internal) medicine
- Supporting the view that immunological concepts and techniques are important to many specialties, and not solely a Board linked with allergology
- Evolving guidelines (currently in draft stage) for a charter on continuing medical education.

Forthcoming events

In 1995

6-10 Feb
Intensive applied epidemiology course for rheumatologists, Manchester
Contact: Margaret Fullalove, ARC Epidemiology Research Unit, Stopford Building, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PT.
Tel: 061 275 5040. Fax: 061 275 5043

9-10 Feb
2nd International Symposium on Paget's Disease of Bone, Sydney
Contact: Meeting Secretariat, GPO Box 2609, Sydney NSW 2001, Australia. Fax: 61 2 251 3552

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: Professor Y Schoenfeld, Chairman, Organising Committee, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel. Tel: 972 3 5140014. Fax: 972 3 5175674 or 972 3 5160325

27-31 Mar
12th World Congress of the International Federation of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Sydney, Australia
Contact: IFPMR Secretariat, DC Conferences,
Book review


This is the long awaited updated edition of Graham Hughes’ popular book on the connective tissue diseases. As with previous volumes, the book is divided into 15 chapters, covering most of the systemic connective tissue disorders from lupus to rare conditions such as angiitis of the CNS. A whole chapter is also devoted to rheumatoid arthritis. A helpful appendix is included, giving a brief account of the methodology and the clinical significance of the more common immunological tests used in rheumatology.

A unifying format is used throughout the book: each chapter begins with an introduction, followed by a brief historical background, epidemiology, pathology, aetio-pathogenesis, clinical features, investigations, differential diagnoses, management, and ending with prognosis. The style is highly readable. The bibliography is comprehensive, and references to recent excellent review articles are included to whet the appetites of the more enthusiastic readers. In particular, I enjoyed the case histories, which help to bridge the gap between theory and clinical practice and would, I am sure, make the book attractive to medical students as well as novice rheumatologists.

The chapters are generally well illustrated but, unfortunately, no colour plates are included. Most of the chapters have been extensively updated, especially chapter 4, on the antiphospholipid syndrome. Systemic lupus is amply addressed. However, the repeated reference to antiphospholipid antibodies was rather tiresome. The unwary reader might be misled to think that lupus is caused by these antibodies! Overall, there is a heavy bias towards rheumatological practices in St Thomas’ Hospital and I was amused by the occasional unsubstantiated claims, for example, “seprin provocation test” in the diagnosis of Sjögren’s syndrome.

Nevertheless, this book is a very useful first source of information for students, scientists, and general physicians, as well as the practicing rheumatologist. I can thoroughly recommend it for all with a passing, or even passionate, interest in the connective tissue diseases.

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