

- 22–27 Oct Vth International Conference on the Chemistry and Biology of Mineralised Tissues, Kohler, Wisconsin
Contact: Linda Keller, The University of Texas and Health Science Centre at San Antonio, 7703 Floyd Curl Drive, San Antonio TX 78284-7823. Fax: 210 546 2052
- 19–25 Nov British Council International Seminar (Number 9596). Evaluating treatment: The Cochrane Review of Outcomes in Fractures, Arthritis and Back Pain, Edinburgh
Contact: Publicity Manager, International Seminars Department (Seminar 9596), The British Council, 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN. Tel: 071 389 4264/4162/4226. Fax: 071 389 4154
- 4–5 Dec International Symposium of Immuno-Rheumatology (main topic: New tools for diagnosis and therapeutics in rheumatic diseases), Montpellier, France
Contact: Professor J Sany, Service d'Immuno-Rhumatologie, Hôpital Gui-de-Chauliac, 34295 Montpellier cedex 5, France. Tel: (33) 67 33 72 31. Fax: (33) 67 61 97 31
- 4–7 Dec British Society for Immunology Annual Congress, Brighton
Contact: Mrs K Dorelli, 2 Triangle House, 2 Broomhill Road, London SW18 4HX. Tel: 081 877 9920. Fax: 081 877 9308
- In 1996*
21–26 Apr 8th APLAR Congress of Rheumatology, Melbourne
Closing date for Abstracts: 1 November 1995
Contact: 8th Asia Pacific League Against Rheumatism Congress, PO Box 29, Parkville, 3052 Victoria, Australia. Tel: 613 387 9955. Fax: 613 387 3120
- 8–10 May BSR XIIIth AGM, Brighton
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
- 18–23 May 1996 World Congress on Osteoporosis, Amsterdam
Contact: CONGREX Holland bv, Keizersgracht 782, 1017 EC Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel: 31 20 6261372. Fax: 31 20 6259574
- 19–20 Sep Heberden Round, Dr M Seifert, Imperial College, London
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
- 7–9 Oct IXth EULAR Symposium, Madrid
Contact: EULAR Secretariat, Witikonstrasse 15, CH-8032 Zurich, Switzerland. Tel: 41 1 383 96 90. Fax: 41 1 383 98 10
- 10–11 Oct 7th International Conference on Behçet's Disease, Tunis
Contact: Dr M Hamza, Professor of Rheumatology, BP 45, El Menzah, 1014 Tunisia

Book reviews

Practical evaluation and management of the shoulder. Eds F A Matsen, S B Lippitt, D T Harryman, J A Sidles. (Pp 285; £58.00.) Sidcup, Kent: Harcourt Brace & Co. Ltd, 1994. ISBN 0-7216-4819-3.

If you want a simple resume of the classical approach to shoulder pathology, this book is not for you. However, should you wish to turn shoulder evaluation upside down and take a new approach altogether, look no further. Emanating from the University of Washington Shoulder Team, *Practical evaluation and management of the shoulder* takes, as its name suggests, an essentially practical approach to management of shoulder problems.

In contrast to the usual diagnostically based approach, Masten and colleagues have addressed the subject from an entirely functional point of view, accepting that the goal of treatment is the restoration of shoulder function, and therefore that the success of treatment must be measured in terms of functional improvement. Conditions are firmly divided into those which are and are not amenable to treatment and chapter headings include Shoulder Motion, Stability, Strength and Smoothness, rather than the usual pathological classifications. Clinical evaluation is placed foremost, with most of the emphasis being on clinical history, examination and plain radiograph findings. MRI scans are not totally ignored, but discussion centres on dynamic rather than static mode imaging.

Helpful examples of Washington Shoulder Team practice are given, including details of their 'Simple Shoulder Test' and its behaviour in the different conditions. Also given are examples of information leaflets and different home exercise programmes, as well as details of the relevant surgical procedures.

The reader should be forewarned that this text represents an American view. Classification of diagnosis describes conditions not immediately recognisable to the UK rheumatologist. 'Atraumatic instability', for example, denotes rotator cuff dysfunction more commonly described as 'rotator cuff tendinitis' in the terminology of the UK rheumatologist, although it probably describes more accurately the failure of downward migration of the humeral head which results in impingement of the rotator cuff tendons and leads to symptoms of rotator cuff irritation. For this reason, it is a book most suited to the experienced rheumatologist/orthopaedic surgeon/physiotherapist who wishes to push back the barriers of understanding, rather than to the student or junior doctor seeking a secure background for the terminology they hear about them every day.

Copiously illustrated throughout, the book contains some very clear drawings that demonstrate the mechanics of shoulder movement and some intriguing examples of activities designed to illustrate mechanisms of shoulder function. Some may find these more confusing than helpful, but there is detail enough to inform even the most intricate ergonomic assessment.

As with every other book, not everything that is said should be taken verbatim. As stated earlier, this is not a choice for the novice or beginner, but anyone wishing seriously to pursue excellence in the field of shoulder problems and their management should not pass by this opportunity to gain a unique insight and understanding in a highly complex area.

Regional Rehabilitation Unit,
Northwick Park Hospital,
Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3UJ,
United Kingdom

LYNNE TURNER-STOKES