

Notes/News

The Vienna Physical Medicine Award, 1995

All academic scientists working in Physical Medicine or related fields are invited to apply for this award, sponsored by Zimmer Elektromedizin GmbH, Neu-Ulm, Germany, and offered by the Chair of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Vienna, Austria. Value: a yearly scientific award of 10 000 DM (6000 US\$), plus a maximum travel subsidy of 1000 DM.

Deadline: 1 August 1995.

Submissions: unpublished original scientific papers, from any aspect of Physical Medicine, in English (maximum length: 20 typed pages); they will automatically be submitted for publication in the *European Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. All manuscripts must be **anonymous**, but accompanied by: name and address of author(s); short CV(s); statement that participant is author; statement confirming that the participant is entitled to publish the manuscript and agreeing to its publication. Further details from: Doz Dr V Fialka, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Währinger Gürtel 18-20, AKH, 1090 Vienna, Austria.

Forthcoming events

In 1995

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| 23-29 July | IUIS Meeting, San Francisco, USA Contact: Congress Secretariat, 9th International Congress of Immunology 9650, Rockville Pike, Bethesda MD 20814, USA | 15-18 Oct | 2nd AFLAR Congress of Rheumatology, Tunisia Contact: 2ème Congrès Africain de Rhumatologie, BP. 131, 2091 El Menzah VI 2091, Tunis. Tel: 216 1 260 432/216 1 893 895. Fax: 216 1 510 636 |
| 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 | 22-26 Oct | American College of Rheumatology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California Contact: American College of Rheumatology, Ronald F Olejko, Director, Conferences and Meetings, 60 Executive Park South, Suite 150, Atlanta, Georgia 30329, USA. Tel: 404 633 3777. Fax: 404 633 1870 |
| 10-17 Sep | 3rd EULAR Postgraduate Course in Rheumatology Contact: Vienna Academy of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Vienna. Fax: 43 1 42 13 83 23 | 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 |
| 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 | 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 |
| 17-22 Sep | Inflammation '95: Second World Congress on Inflammation, Brighton Deadline for abstracts and registration: 7 April 1995 Contact: Inflammation '95, c/o Kay Dorelli, Triangle House, Broomhill Road, London SW18 4HX. Tel: 081 877 9920. Fax: 081 877 9308 | 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 |
| 28-30 Sep | International Congress on Rheumatoid Arthritis, Bari, Italy Contact: Centro Italiano Congressi CIC Sud, Via Camillo Rosalbo Trav, 47/e n 28, Bari, Italy. Tel: 39 80 5043737 | 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 |
| 29 Sep-1 Oct | Third EULAR Workshop on Cartilage and Bone Research, London Contact: Dr M T Bayliss, Division of Biochemistry, Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, Bute Gardens, London W6 7DW. Tel: 44 181 748 9966. Fax: 44 181 748 5090. e-Mail: richard@cs.city.ac.uk | 10-16 Dec | The Seventh International Seminar on the Treatment of Rheumatic Diseases, Israel Deadline for abstracts: 19 October 1995. Contact: Seminar Secretariat, Progress Tours, Congress Organizers, 4 Ashkenazy Str, IL 49461, Petach Tikva, Israel. Tel: (972-3) 930 9710. Fax: (972-3) 930 1170 |
| | | <i>In 1996</i> | |
| | | 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, The Netherlands Contact: Congrex Holland bv, Keizersgracht 782, 1017 EC Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 20 6261372. Fax: +31 20 6259574. |

- 31 May–
3 June 26th Scandinavian Congress of Rheumatology, Reykjavik, Iceland
Deadline for abstracts: 1 February 1996
Contact: Scientific Secretariat, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Landspítalinn, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland. Tel: 354 1 601255/5 601255. Fax: 354 1 601287/5 601287.
- 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

Book reviews

The management of musculoskeletal problems in the haemophilias. Eds R B Duthie, C R Rizza, P L F Giangrande, C A F Dodd. (Pp 282; £60.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994. ISBN 0-19-262317-6.

The Oxford Haemophilia Centre's previous contributions to the understanding and management of haemophilia are well recognised. This book, in common with its first edition, is very much about how musculoskeletal problems are managed in Oxford in an apparently 'clear, didactic and straightforward' manner. Since the first edition, much has changed in haemophilia, the molecular defect is defined in a clotting factor concentrate prepared by recombinant technology and licensed for human use, but these successes have been undermined by HIV 1 infection and, in those not HIV infected, by the occurrence of chronic liver disease caused by hepatitis C.

In the first edition of the book, all the contributors were from Oxford. This edition includes special contributors—whether these contributions were to widen appeal or provide a great depth of experience is not clear. I, however, would have understood the appeal of a single centre volume.

Not surprisingly, a book written by orthopaedic surgeons and haematologists is aimed at these specific groups. Whether orthopaedic surgeons will find it useful, I am unsure. Haematologists may be frustrated by the superficial discussions on coagulation. There is not enough depth in the discussion of the musculoskeletal aspects for it to be of sufficient interest to rheumatologists. Disappointingly, the expertise offered by rheumatologists in the management of musculoskeletal disorders is not acknowledged. Whether this is because few rheumatologists have expressed an interest in haemophilic arthritis or because a bias exists at one centre is not readily apparent. A few specific statements and omissions deserve comment. Although I agree that aspirin based compound should be avoided in haemophilia, I cannot understand why mefenamic acid deserves special inclusion, while the work on the safety and efficacy of ibuprofen and some other non-steroidal agents in haemophilia is totally omitted. It is also difficult to understand why, despite the overwhelming evidence against intra-articular steroids damaging cartilage in inflammatory arthritis, we are advised that they do so in haemophilic arthritis. There is also scant discussion of joint sepsis in HIV positive haemophiliacs, which one author highlights as a major problem. No mention is made of work from several centres on yttrium synovithesis. Advice on not injecting clotting factor concentrate into the joint, surprisingly, is justified on the basis of inducing inhibitory antibodies, rather than on pathogenetic grounds. The detailed

description on how to aspirate joints is a little too didactic for me.

The information provided in this book can be easily gleaned more simply by reviewing relevant chapters in available rheumatology textbooks, supplemented by a limited literature search. This rheumatologist was relieved to read 'that the radical treatment of liver transplantation should not be routinely advocated for haemophiliacs' (even by surgeons!).

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RAJAN MADHOK

Acute rheumatic and immunological diseases: management of the critically ill patient. Ed B F Mandell. (Pp 640; \$195.) New York: Marcel Dekker, 1994. ISBN 0-8247-9125-8.

It is in the management of patients with multisystem diseases that rheumatologists are most tested as clinicians. Such patients need careful assessment, knowledgeable interpretation of a range of investigations, and the subsequent instigation of often toxic drugs. Rheumatologists and clinical immunologists will be looking for a text where information can be found quickly but is backed up by appropriate references—a book, therefore, that is 'user friendly'. How does this book fare?

The layout is encouraging, with a problem oriented approach. There are no chapters on systemic lupus erythematosus or Wegener's granulomatosis (WG), but rather on fever, acute renal failure, respiratory insufficiency, etc. Many chapters facilitate differential diagnosis and decision making by presenting algorithms and flow charts; there is an excellent one concerning febrile lupus patients. In other chapters, the text is broken up by tables, and I was interested to read of the 'Chinese restaurant syndrome' as a differential diagnosis of anaphylaxis. Throughout the book, the number of illustrations is disappointing: three poor quality x ray reproductions, one arteriogram, and two glomeruli (both black and white) are all that I came across. A chapter on cutaneous vasculitis containing some colour slides would be welcomed.

There is an American feel to this book, and with the vast majority of its contributors being North American (two UK, no other European), I detected a slight bias towards North American references. The problem oriented approach that the book offers has the drawback of causing fragmentation of information on individual diseases; WG for example, is briefly mentioned as a cause of fever, and more thoroughly covered in the chapters on systemic vasculitis, CNS vasculitis and acute renal failure, but when it comes to treatment, coverage is disappointingly unclear. Relevant drugs are discussed but under lengthy paragraphs, often without subheadings, from which snippets of information have to be gleaned. This fragmentation is not helped by an inadequate index, forcing the reader to seek information from chapter headings. Other conditions that were poorly discussed included Behçet's disease (especially its treatment) and relapsing polychondritis (not even mentioned in the index, although covered briefly in the chapter on fever).

This is a book that excites on early examination, but disappoints and frustrates with continued usage. There are some excellent chapters, but for clinical utility and 'user friendliness' it fails to deliver. I wanted a book that could save time otherwise devoted to searching references in the library, and for the most part it doesn't. At \$195, it seems a lot to pay.

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