Notes/News

1st Central European Congress of Rheumatology
The scientific programme for this Congress, to be held in Piešťany, Slovak Republic, 15–18 May 1996, will include lectures, symposia, workshops, and poster sessions on current aspects of rheumatic diseases in the elderly. The topics are: crystal induced arthropathy; connective tissue disorders in the elderly; new therapeutic aspects in the elderly; the immune system in the elderly; osteoporosis and surgical intervention in the elderly.

For further information contact: 1st Central European Congress of Rheumatology, Congress Secretariat, Research Institute of Rheumatic Diseases, Nábrežie Ivana Krasku 4, SK-921 01 Piešťany, Slovak Republic. Fax: +42 838 21192.

The Metro A Ogryzlo International Fellowship
Members of the Canadian Rheumatology Association have established an annual Fellowship in memory of their colleague, the late Dr Metro A Ogryzlo. The Fellowship is designed to provide advanced training in clinical rheumatology (adult and/or paediatric) at a Canadian Rheumatic Disease Unit. The stipend attaching to the Ogryzlo Fellowship will be to a maximum of $31,000 (CDN) per annum. Candidates should arrange their own place of training in Canada. Canadian citizens are not eligible.


The following will be taken into consideration for adjudication:
1. The successful candidate should have completed his/her training in General Medicine and will be returning to the country of origin, preferably to an academic position.
2. Training similar to that proposed in Canada would not be available in the country of origin.
3. The Canadian experience will be of sufficient benefit to the candidate that it will significantly enhance the provision of rheumatological services to the country of origin on his/her return.
4. The academic merit of the candidate.

The Arthritis Society will administer the Fellowship on behalf of the Canadian Rheumatology Association. For further details and application forms, contact: The Arthritis Society, 250 Bloor Street East, Suite 901, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4W 3P2. Fax: 416 967 7171.

The Volvo Awards for Low Back Pain Research 1996
To encourage research in low back pain, the Volvo Company of Göteborg, Sweden, this year will again sponsor three prizes of US $9000 each, to be awarded competitively on the basis of scientific merit in one or more of the following areas: Clinical studies; Biomechanical studies; Clinical studies in other areas of basic science.

Papers submitted must contain original material in the form of a complete report (including original illustrations), not previously published or submitted for publication, and should be in English, in a form suitable for submission to a scientific journal as an original paper. Multiple authorship is acceptable. The manuscript must not exceed 30 typewritten pages (references and tables included) of text no smaller than 10pt and must be double spaced. Ethics committee approval is necessary for all animal studies and controlled clinical studies.

Deadline for submissions: 1st December 1995. Articles will not be accepted by Fax.

One original and 5 full copies (including illustrations) of each paper, giving full address, telephone and fax number of the author(s), must be submitted to: Professor Alf Nachemson (Chairman, Board of Referees), Department of Orthopaedics, Sahlgren Hospital, S-413 45 Göteborg, Sweden.

One of the authors should be prepared, at his own expense, to attend the meeting of the International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine, Burlington, Vermont, USA, 25–29 June 1996, to present the paper and receive the award.

Forthcoming events

In 1995
23–29 July
IUFS Meeting, San Francisco, USA
Contact: Congress Secretariat, 9th International Congress of Immunology 9650, Rockville Pike, Bethesda MD 20814, USA

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

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

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

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

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

In 1996
26 Feb–1 Mar
Intensive applied epidemiology course for rheumatologists, Manchester (residential; limited to 20 places). No experience in epidemiology is required.
Contact: Margaret Fullalove, ARC Epidemiology Research Unit, Stopford Building, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PT, United Kingdom. Tel: +44 (0)161 275 5040. Fax: +44 (0)161 275 5043.

16–19 Apr
OMERACT 3: Outcome Measures in Arthritis Clinical Trials, Cairns, Australia
Contact: Prof Peter Brooks, Department of Medicine, St Vincent’s Hospital, Darlinghurst, Sydney, NSW 2010, Australia. Tel: 02 361 2352. Fax: 02 361 2794. e.Mail: P.Brooks@unsw.edu.au.

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

Ann Rheum Dis: first published as 10.1136/ard.54.7.547 on 1 July 1995. Downloaded from http://ard.bmj.com/ on September 14, 2023 by guest. Protected by copyright.
Book review


The importance of osteoporosis as a health problem in elderly populations is now widely recognised. By the time that fractures are present, bone loss is usually advanced and irreversible changes in bone architecture have occurred; treatment of the established condition is therefore of limited efficacy and prophylaxis provides the optimal strategy. Although a number of agents which reduce or prevent bone loss have been identified, the selection of patients for treatment remains an unresolved and controversial issue. In particular, the question of screening for low bone mass has received much attention and is specifically addressed by this report, which sets out to define the value and practical application of such an approach in postmenopausal women. The magnitude of the health problem caused by osteoporosis, the use of bone densitometry as a diagnostic and predictive test, risks and benefits of several interventions, and logistic and financial issues relevant to the screening programme itself are all discussed in detail. The report is well structured and, although there is no index, a detailed breakdown of the sections in each chapter is provided in the listed Contents, so that information on a specific topic can easily be found. With more than 30 tables and 20 figures the book presents an attractive format to the reader and the 466 references provide plenty of scope for additional reading.

Despite its modest size, this book is a mine of information and covers a broad spectrum of topics related to clinical aspects of osteoporosis. The assessment of bone mass is described in considerable detail, with evaluation of both old and new techniques and a detailed discussion of issues related to accuracy and precision. Densitometric and biochemical approaches to the assessment of bone loss are described; the conclusion on the latter approach is cautious, stressing the need for further research in this area. The risks and benefits of intervention are discussed with reference not only to hormone replacement therapy, but also to other agents such as bisphosphonates, calcitonins, calcium, and vitamin D. A diagnostic classification of osteopenia and osteoporosis is proposed, based on comparison of bone density values with young adult reference data; despite its inevitable limitations, most of which are acknowledged by the authors, this provides a more rational and standardised approach to diagnosis than previously available and should facilitate decisions about treatment in clinical practice.

The central question addressed by this report is so contentious that the temptation to turn immediately to the Summary and Conclusions section at the end is hard to resist. The statement that 'selected screening is worthwhile for women within 5 years of the menopause to stratify risk and offer intervention', would be interpreted by most as an endorsement of screening and appears at odds with the earlier conclusion in this section that 'the argument for treating or screening all women is poor', although this presumably refers to women of all ages. The authors also suggest, even more controversially, that there is a good case for screening women around the age of 65 years, based on the increasing evidence that significant bone loss is still occurring at this age and that intervention can reduce hip fracture risk and is cost effective. This will certainly stimulate vigorous discussion, although some might wish to delay judgment until further information becomes available.

The Study Group is represented by distinguished clinical scientists from a number of disciplines and this is reflected in excellent and concise coverage of a rapidly evolving subject. Inevitably, a few errors have crept in; for example hyperparathyroidism is not mentioned as a cause of secondary osteoporosis (table 5), whereas porphyria is. The time course of age related bone loss illustrated in figure 1 suggests that accelerated bone loss in women occurs during the seventh rather than the sixth decade and the term T score rather than Z score should be used on the graph and in the legend. Overall however, the report provides a valuable and accurate source of reference for the growing number of health professionals with an interest in osteoporosis and offers useful guidelines for the clinical management of this common disease. The debate about screening for osteoporosis will continue for some years to come; this book does not supply a definitive answer, but provides a framework for future discussions and strategies.

University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine, School Medicine, Department of Medicine, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge CB2 0QQ, United Kingdom

JULIET COMPSTON