Notes/News

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; Bioengineering studies; 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

15–18 Oct 2nd AFLAR Congress of Rheumatology, Tunisia Contact: 2ème Congrèes 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

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

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

25–28 Oct Sports through rehabilitation: 1st International Congress of the German Sports Association for the Disabled, Dusseldorf, Germany. Contact: Congress Office, Sports Medicine Institute at Paderborn Polytechnic University, Warburger Str 100, 33098 Paderborn, Germany. Tel: 49 (0)5251 603 200. Fax: 49 (0)5251 603 500.

10–11 Nov British Cervical Spine Society meeting, Southampton Deadline for abstracts: 15 September 1995. Contact: Mr Fausto Iannotti, Clinical Neurological Sciences, University of Medicine, Room LF738, Level F, South Academic Block, Southampton General Hospital, Tremena Road, Southampton SO16 6YD. Tel: 01703 796617. Fax: 01703 704236.

13–15 Nov 2nd Annual Cytokine Antagonists, Boston, MA, USA. Contact: Cambridge Healthtech Institute, 1000 Winter Street, Suite 3700, Waltham, MA 02154, USA. Tel: 617 487 7989. Fax: 617 487 7937. e-Mail: chi@worldcom.com

13–15 Nov 8th French Congress of Rheumatology, Paris, France. Contact: Secretariat Administratif de la Société Française de Rhumatologie, Hôpital de la Pitié, Pavillon Layani, 83 Boulevard de l’Hôpital, 75651 Paris Cedex 13, France. Tel: 33 1 45 86 30 58. Fax: 33 1 45 86 33 59.


In 1996

8–10 Feb The epidemiology of osteoarthritis in the peripheral joints: a workshop in collaboration with the EULAR Standing Committee for Epidemiology, Orenas, Malmo, Sweden. Contact: Dr Ingmar Petersson, Spenshult’s Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, S-313 00 Oskarstrom, Sweden. Tel: 46 35 62200. Fax: 46 35 62334

26 Feb–1 Mar Intensive applied epidemiology course for rheumatologists, Manchester (residential; limited to 20 places). No experience in epidemiology is required.
Autoimmune disease: focus on Sjögren’s syndrome

Sjögren’s syndrome has been attracting much attention from clinicians and investigators because of its diverse clinical features other than keratoconjunctivitis sicca and xerostomia, and because of its unsolved immunological pathogenesis. Clinical aspects of Sjögren's syndrome range from simple oral and ophthalmological problems to difficult malignant diseases such as lymphomas. Although it is well known that secondary Sjögren’s syndrome, which is associated with other connective tissue diseases, shows many types of organ damage related to the underlying diseases, primary Sjögren’s syndrome also can involve almost all organs in the body. More than 50% of patients with primary Sjögren’s syndrome have such extraglandular disorders, caused by lymphocytic infiltration, autoantibodies, or hypergammaglobulinemia. In the past 10 years, there has been an explosion of knowledge about the pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases. As recent advances in the immunological field have been so rapid and diverse, it is not easy for clinicians to understand and keep up with new findings on all aspects of Sjögren’s syndrome.

This is the first comprehensive book on Sjögren’s syndrome since the one edited by Prof Norman Talal et al in 1987, and stems from the meeting on 14 December 1993, at the Medical School at University College London. It provides timely information for clinicians and investigators on new developments in the study of Sjögren’s syndrome, although naturally slanted towards recent advances in molecular biology.

The work is in 12 parts that encompass clinical spectrum, molecular pathology, cell adhesion, experimental models, autoantibodies, the anti-Ro/SS-A antibody, glycosylation abnormalities, T cell receptor usage, immunogenetics, viruses, autoimmunity and malignancy, and therapy. The individual chapter topics are well selected and written by experts in the areas discussed. The authors have achieved overviews of what are rapidly developing areas of study. Most chapters are attractively organised and it is interesting to read the well structured reviews and authors’ own findings. Two chapters (2 and 11) by leading investigators deal with one of the most intriguing aspects of Sjögren’s syndrome—the emergence of lymphoproliferative disorders—and seem likely to be especially stimulating to the readers. In chapter 2, evidence from rearrangement of the heavy chain gene of immunoglobulins was presented for monoclonal clones in salivary glands in patients with Sjögren’s syndrome. The importance of this kind of approach for the analysis of the early lymphoproliferative events in Sjögren’s syndrome was emphasised. In chapter 4, the description of animal models of Sjögren’s syndrome is comprehensive and detailed. The authors compared animal models with human Sjögren’s syndrome in every aspect from histological findings to modern cytokines. Although animal models may not be ideal for the study of all aspects of human diseases, they are, at least, important to clarify the early events of disordered mechanisms in Sjögren’s syndrome. The Ro(SS-A) and La(SS-B) proteins may play an important part in the disease aetiology and the antibodies to these are also important in the diagnosis of Sjögren’s syndrome. In chapter 5, the authors emphasised the role of these proteins as cell surface membrane antigens and from the viewpoint of molecular mimicry of viral proteins. One recent advance in the knowledge of autoimmune disorders has been the elucidation of T cell involvement based on molecular medicine in the pathogenesis of the autoimmune mechanism. In chapter 8, accumulation of specific αβ T cells in the autoimmune sites in murine and human Sjögren’s syndrome was shown and discussed from the standpoint of the superantigen and antigen driven mechanism of autoimmune reaction. In chapter 9, the HLA class II molecules and their role in presenting putative autoantigens were presented in detail. These molecules are universally important to the understanding of the early events in autoimmune reactions. The authors of chapter 10 present a stimulating hypothesis based on their own findings on the mechanism of perpetuation of autoimmune reaction in Sjögren’s syndrome, namely a cycle between interferon gamma, retroviral antigens, HLA class II molecules, and cytoplasmic La in the epithelial cells, and infiltrates of CD4 lymphocytes. The concept of mucosa associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) lymphoma was established by the authors of chapter 11, who present exciting evidence that there exist certain antigen (Helicobacter pylori) driven malignant lymphomas, and that some monoclonal lymphoproliferation can be traced back 20 years earlier than systemic malignant lymphomas.

This book is important to the expansion of knowledge, not only of Sjögren’s syndrome, but also of other autoimmune diseases. I can certainly recommend it to those who are interested in the clinical and basic research aspects of Sjögren’s syndrome and other autoimmune diseases.