Notes/News

Unusual but memorable
Have you a case for this new series (starting this month on page 77)? Suitable contributions should show striking abnormalities (clinical, imaging, or pathological) of uncommon or rare conditions and include a brief description and 1–2 references. Please submit two copies to the Editor.

Forthcoming events

In 1997

16-20 Mar Biennial Congress of the South African Rheumatism and Arthritis Association and South African Health Professionals in Rheumatology, Durban
Contact: Congress Secretary, Rheumatology Unit, University of Natal, Private Bag 7, Congella 4013, Durban, South Africa. Tel: +27 31 2604284. Fax: +27 31 2604482

20-23 Mar 17th European Workshop on Rheumatology Research, Brest
Contact: Prof P Youinou, Laboratoire d’Immunologie, Centre Hospitalier Régional et Universitaire, F-29609 Brest Cedex, France. Tel: +33 98 22 33 84. Fax: +33 98 80 10 76

23-25 Apr BSR XVth AGM, Harrogate
Contact: Ms Anne Mansfield, Deputy General Secretary, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR. Tel: 0171242 3313. Fax: 0171242 3277

24-26 Apr Second European Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care, Paris, France
The forum will consist of one-day teaching courses, invited presentations, posters and presentations selected from submissions, and a scientific session.
Contact: BMA, Conference Unit, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9TE, Tel: +44 (0) 171 383 6478. Fax: +44 (0) 171 383 6869

21-25 May Fourth International Symposium on the Immunotherapy of the Rheumatic Diseases, Cyprus
Contact: Symposium Secretary, Rheumatology Unit, 4th Floor Hunt’s House, Guy’s Hospital, London SE1 9RT, United Kingdom. Tel: 0171 955 4394. Fax: 0171955 2472

8-13 Jun XIX ILAR Congress of Rheumatology, Singapore
Contact: ILAR’97 Secretariat, Communication Consultants, 336 Smith Street, No 06-302, New Bridge Centre, Singapore 0105, Republic of Singapore. Tel: 65 227 9811. Fax: 65 227 0257

6-29 Jun 1st European Congress of MRI in Joint Diseases, Portorož, Slovenia
Contact: Prof B Rozman, Dept of Rheumatology, Dr Peter Drzaj Hospital, Vodnikova 62, 1107 Ljubljana, Slovenia. Tel (386 61) 555 256. Fax: (386 61) 1595 338

8-14 Sep 4th EULAR Postgraduate Course in Rheumatology, Prague
Contact: Mr F Wyss, EULAR Secretariat, Witikonstrasse 15, CH-8032 Zürich, Switzerland. Tel: +41 1 383 9690. Fax: +41 1 383 9810

11-12 Sep BSR Heberden Round, Belfast
Contact: Ms Anne Mansfield, Deputy General Secretary, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR. Tel: 0171242 3313. Fax: 0171242 3277

18-20 Sep Swiss Society of Rheumatology, Annual Meeting, Basel
Contact: Mrs Gisela Dulvit, Schweizerische Rheumaliga, Renggerstr. 71, CH-8038 Zürich, Switzerland. Tel: 41 1 482 6439

9-13 Nov 61st American College of Rheumatology AGM, Washington DC, USA
Contact: Ronald F Olejko, Director of Conferences and Meetings, 60 Executive Park South, Suite 150, Atlanta, Georgia 30329, USA. Tel: 404 633 3777. Fax: 404 633 1870

19-22 Nov Xth EULAR Symposium: New Anti-inflammatory and Immuno-modulating Agents: Clinical and Experimental Aspects, Benefits and Risks, Vienna, Austria
Contact: EULAR Secretariat, Witikonstrasse 15, CH-8032 Zurich, Switzerland. Tel: 41 1 383 9690. Fax: 41 1 383 9810

3-7 Dec Rheumaderm’97, Valletta, Malta
Contact: Ms Josepha Cremona, University of Malta Medical School, Department of Dermatology, Boffa Hospital, Floriana, Malta. Tel: 356 23 47 98. Fax: 356 23 47 98

In 1998

22-24 Apr BSR XVth AGM, Brighton
Contact: Ms Anne Mansfield, Deputy General Secretary, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR. Tel: 0171242 3313. Fax: 0171242 3277

11-13 May 9th Mediterranean Congress of Rheumatology, Dubrovnik, Croatia
Contact: Professor Ivo Jajic, Department of Rheumatology, University Hospital “Sestre milosrdnice”, Vinogradska 29, 10000-Zagreb, Croatia. Fax: 385 1 172453

11-13 May XIth Pan-American Congress of Rheumatology, Montreal, Canada
Contact: PANLAR, c/o Sorelcomm (1985) Inc., 4446 St Laurent Boulevard, Suite 704, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2W 1Z5. Tel: 514 499 8920. Fax: 514 499 8921

21-26 Jun XIth Pan-American Congress of Rheumatology, Montreal, Canada
Contact: PANLAR, c/o Sorelcomm (1985) Inc., 4446 St Laurent Boulevard, Suite 704, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2W 1Z5. Tel: 514 499 8920. Fax: 514 499 8921

23-26 Jun Xth EULAR Symposium: Atypical Arthritides: a Multi-disciplinary Approach, Geneva, Switzerland
Contact: EULAR Secretariat, Witikonstrasse 15, CH-8032 Zurich, Switzerland. Tel: 41 1 383 9690. Fax: 41 1 383 9810

A potential problem in bringing connective tissue diseases under one heading is what we mean by the term and what to include. The editors have steered a safe route and included almost everything, although one could argue that osteoarthritis (which is not included) belongs as much as rheumatoid arthritis. In fact the latter is given a small chapter that seems rather incongruous in terms of its relative importance, and the management of important systemic manifestations such as Felty syndrome and rheumatoid vasculitis is barely touched upon. Osteoarthritis does get a mention under the molecular biology of inherited disorders of connective tissue—a rather curious chapter where there is a lot of valuable detail but lack of integration between the respective coauthors’ contributions. I liked the final section on future therapeutics which was imaginative and up to date and would not be out of place in many standard texts on inflammatory disorders.

Most attention is given to “autoimmune” connective tissue disease if one is allowed to include systemic sclerosis under that term. Some chapters are more thorough than others, for instance polymyositis and dermatomyositis is comprehensive if not a bit wordy with 174 references, whereas scleroderma is understated and lacking a useful approach to diagnosis and management. Systemic lupus erythematosus is excellently covered, with about the right balance of clinical depth for a book of this size and contributes the most to a central panel of 11 colour plates. Otherwise chapters are well illustrated, including the two covering “primary” and “secondary” vasculitis respectively. The slightly arbitrary division between these two chapters does pose a few difficulties, which is almost inevitable in any attempt to carve up vasculitis. Microscopic polyangiitis is mentioned but not discussed and I would have liked to have seen a bit more on ANCA and its possible pathogenic significance. In contrast, the immunopathology of Sjögren syndrome is comprehensive yet the management section relatively brief. It seems that the interests of the contributors have been catered for in places at the expense of a more uniformly structured approach to each of the respective conditions that are covered.

Having said all the above I liked the book, which sets out to inform physicians involved in the management of connective tissue disease. Anyone working full time in the area may pick up a few tips, but the real value may well be to those with more general interests, including physicians, medical trainees and students, scientists working in related research, and health professionals caring for patients with some of these complex multisystem disorders. The book is well referenced and indexed for the casual browser, which is necessary as some aspects are not covered in depth. There is a need for a book of this kind, but future editions may do well to concentrate even more on management issues of challenging clinical situations where there may be no help from evidence based medicine. Here a more personalised approach in some of the chapters would be very helpful and enhance the value of a book which otherwise is a welcome addition to the literature in this field.

Bath

NEIL McHugh