Notes/News

Forthcoming events

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 31 260 4284. Fax: +27 31 260 4482

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 XIVth AGM, Harrogate
Contact: Ms Anne Mansfield, Deputy General Secretary, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR. Tel: 0171 242 3313. Fax: 0171 242 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 191, 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: 0171 955 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

26-29 Jun 1st European Congress of MRI in Joint Diseases, Portoroz, 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: 0171 242 3313. Fax: 0171 242 3277

18-20 Sep Swiss Society of Rheumatology, Annual Meeting, Basel
Contact: Mrs Gisela Dalvit, Schweizerische Rheumaliga, Renggerstr. 71, CH-8038 Zürich, Switzerland. Tel: 41 1 482 5600. Fax: 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 Zürich, 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: 0171 242 3313. Fax: 0171 242 3277

11-13 May 9th Mediterranean Congress of Rheumatology, Dubrovnik, Croatia
Contact: Professor Ivo Jajic, Department of Rheumatology, University Hospital “Sestre milosrdnice”, Vinogradsk a 29, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia. Tel: 385 1 172 453

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

Contact: EULAR Secretariat, Witikonstrasse 15, CH-8032 Zurich, Switzerland. Tel: 41 1 383 9690. Fax: 41 1 383 9810
Book review


Thought provoking, exciting, punchy but sometimes leaving the reader wishing the book was longer—not always the case with many textbooks. Dr Brandt has performed a superb task in condensing much of the current knowledge and indeed theory of osteoarthritis into such a compact and readable book. It is subdivided into four sections:

Part 1 “General information” contains a brief overview of the theoretical basis of osteoarthritis. While comprehensive in its scope, it is this section of the book that often left me wanting more. The book is, however, aimed more at primary care physicians than at readers specifically interested in osteoarthritis, and one would hope that the easy style of this section would stimulate the reader to look further afield.

Part 2 “Diagnosis of osteoarthritis” covers the diagnosis and assessment of osteoarthritis from a very practical clinical perspective. It also tackles the issue of coexistent diagnoses and practical pitfalls, an aspect that is often overlooked. Illustrative case histories help make the subject come alive.

Part 3 “Therapy for osteoarthritis” is a comprehensive review of drug and non-drug treatment for osteoarthritis and deceptively contains within it a broad bibliography to support its recommendations.

Part 4 “Conclusion” contains algorithms for the treatment of osteoarthritis and from a personal perspective I instinctively shrank away from this section. The algorithms do, however, have a refreshing approach to non-drug treatment and for those who like them, are very appropriate although one might now quibble with the choice of naproxen as the NSAID in some of them. This section is perhaps the only one really to reflect a North American approach to osteoarthritis.

This book has succeeded beautifully in its aim to provide a brief overview of osteoarthritis to primary care physicians. It will also appeal to those who wish to develop an interest in the subject. My only reservation is in the narrowness of its subject matter and it remains to be seen if its target audience will buy such a focused book. I hope they do, not least to prevent my well thumbed copy disappearing!

A C JONES

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