Notes/news

Forthcoming events

In 2000

7-9 Dec American Back Society Conference, Vancouver, Canada
Advances in spinal diagnosis and treatment for the 21st century
Contact: Aubrey A Swartz, American Back Society, 2647 International Boulevard, Suite 401, Oakland, CA 94601, USA
Tel: +1 510 536 9929. Fax: +1 510 536 1812
Email: info@americanbacksoc.org
Web site: www.americanbacksoc.org

In 2001

25-27 Jan 1st International Congress on Functional Syndromes, Milan, Italy
Organising committee: R Furlan, F Pace, P Sarzi-Puttini, Aziende Ospedaliera Polo Universitario, L Sacco, Via G B Grassi 74, 20154 Milan, Italy
Contact: Organizing Secretariat, O.I.C. srl, Via Fatebenefratelli 19, 20121 Milan, Italy
Tel: +39 02 6571200; Fax: +39 02 6571270
Email: oicmi@energy.it
Web site: www.oic.it/functionalsyndromes/

20-24 Feb 3rd International Congress on Autoimmunity, Geneva, Switzerland
Contact: 3rd International Congress on Autoimmunity, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel
Tel: +972 3 5140018/9
Fax: +972 3 5140077/5175674

1-4 Mar 21st European Workshop for Rheumatology Research, Vienna, Austria
The following topics will be covered: genetics, autoantibodies, lymphocyte function, cytokines, gene regulation and signal transduction, apoptosis, new therapeutic approaches
Contact: Vienna Medical Academy, Alser Strasse 4, A-1090 Vienna, Austria
Tel: +43/1 405 13 83 22
Fax: +43/1 407 82 74
Email: jdp@medacad.org

8-11 Mar European Atherosclerosis Society Workshop on the Immune System in Atherosclerosis, Geneva, Switzerland
Contact: Secretariat, European Atherosclerosis Society Workshop, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel
Tel: 9723 514 0018
Fax: 9723 517 5674 or 9723 517 2484
Email: immune@kenes.com

12-16 Mar Ninth Intensive Applied Epidemiology Course for Rheumatologists, Manchester, UK
No previous experience in epidemiology required. Residential course limited to 20
Contact: Ms Lisa McClair, ARC Epidemiology Unit, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PT, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 161 275 5993
Fax: +44 (0) 161 275 5043
Email: Lisa@fs1.ser.man.ac.uk

24-28 Mar 6th International Conference on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Barcelona, Spain
Contact: Secretariat: Viajes Iberia Congresos, Diagonal, 523 4^o 2^a, 08029 Barcelona, Spain
Tel: +34 93 495 5306. Fax: +34 93 405 1390
Email: congresos@v-iberia.com

24-27 Apr XVIII BSR and Scandinavian AGM, Edinburgh, UK
Contact: British Society for Rheumatology, Julia Crawford, Conference Assistant, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7 242 3313
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7 242 3277
Email: conferences@rheumatology.org.uk
Web site: www.rheumatology.org.uk

4-5 May International Meeting on Gene/Cell Therapy in Osteoarticular Diseases, Montpellier, France
Contact: Dr Christian Jorgensen, Service d'Immuno-Rhumatologie, CHU Lapeyronie, 34295 Montpellier cedex 5, France
Fax: (33) 04 67 33 77 98
Email: jorgens@montp.inserm.fr

5-10 Jun Joint Meeting of the International Bone and Mineral Society (IBMS) and European Calcified Tissue Society (ECTS), Madrid Spain
Contact: Tilesa Londres 17, 28028 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 361 2600. Fax: +34 91 355 9208
Email: ibms.ects2001@tilesa.es
Web site: www.intercongres-2001.com

13-16 Jun Annual European Congress of Rheumatology, Prague, Czech Republic
Contact: Fred Wyss, Executive Secretary, EULAR, Witikonstrasse 15, CH-8032, Zurich, Switzerland
Tel: +41 1 383 9690. Fax: +41 1 383 9810
Email: eular@bluewin.ch
Web site: www.eular.org

19-30 Jun International Society of the Study of the Lumbar Spine Meeting, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
Contact: Medicongress, Waalpoel 28, B-9960 Assenede, Belgium
Tel: +32 (0) 9 344 3959
Fax: +32 (0) 9 344 4010
Email: congresses@medicongress.com

26-31 Aug XXth ILAR Congress, Edmonton, Canada
Contact: ILAR 2001 Secretariat, Health Care Communications, Suite 906, 50 Burnhamthorpe Road West, Mississauga, Ontario L5B 3C2, Canada
Tel: +1 905 273 3080 from outside Canada; 800 535 3330 within Canada
Fax: +1 905 273 3611
Email: healthcarecomm@sympatico.ca

21-23 Sep International Conference on the Neuroendocrine Immune Bases of the Rheumatic Diseases, Genova, Italy
Main topics: stress and rheumatic diseases, neurotransmitters and rheumatoid arthritis,

- oestrogens/androgens, immunity and autoimmunity, melatonin and inflammation, cytokines and hormones, non-genomic mechanisms of glucocorticoids, hormones and bone
 Contact: Maurizio Cutolo, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Genova, Viale Benedetto XV, 6, 16132 Genova, Italy
 Tel/fax: +39 010 3537994/8885
 Email: mcutolo@unige.it
- 12–13 Oct International Symposium: Obesity, Bone, and Joint, Brussels Belgium
 Controversies in diagnosis, management, and costs of osteoarticular implications of obesity
 Contact: Professor Dr M Szpalski, Centre Hospitalier Molière Longchamps, Rue Marconi 142, 1180 Brussels, Belgium
 Fax: +32 2 348 56 94
- 16–19 Oct ERASS meeting
 Contact: Eleanor Schlageter, ERASS Office, Klinik Schulthess, Lengghalde 2, CH-8008, Zurich, Switzerland
 Tel: +41 1 385 7429. Fax: +41 1 385 7599
- 11–15 Nov 65th American College of Rheumatology AGM, San Francisco, USA
 Contact: ACR, Ronald F Olejko, Director of Conferences and Meetings, 1800 Century Place, Suite 250, Atlanta, Georgia 30045–4300, USA
 Tel: +1 404 633 3777. Fax: +1 404 633 1870
 Email: acr@rheumatology.org
 Web site: www.rheumatology.org
- In 2002**
- 20–24 Feb 3rd International Congress on Autoimmunity, Geneva, Switzerland
 Contact: Professor Yehuda Shoenfeld, 3rd International Congress on Autoimmunity, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel
 Tel: 9723 514 0018
 Fax: 9723 517 5674
 Email: autoim02@kenes.com
- 27–29 June 10th International Congress on Behçet's Disease, Berlin, Germany
 Contact: Professor Ch Zouboulis
 Email: zoubbere@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Book reviews

Colour atlas of bone, joint and soft tissue pathology.
 Nicholas A Athanasou. (£140.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999. ISBN 9–780192–627926.

Here is a wonderful introduction to the often underappreciated world of bone and other musculoskeletal pathology. Medical students, residents, fellows in pathology and rheumatology and orthopaedics who have an interest in musculoskeletal pathology would probably enjoy going through the excellent pictures and the short, informative descriptions. The book has a wide scope and thus gives a "bird's eye" glimpse of many conditions without necessarily considering them in depth. For breadth, one must make sacrifices. Consequently, this guide is better as a reference book than bench side guide. Although a practising pathologist may find it lacking pertinent information at the bench, practising rheumatologists may find it just the book to look for in the library when faced with a patient with a puzzling biopsy report. One will probably find this book on a library shelf for, at £140, it is expensive for individual purchase.

I enjoyed looking at the pictures. I compliment the author on including such a variety of orthopaedic and rheumatological conditions, including some uncommonly seen problems. A traditional approach to musculoskeletal pathology is taken, and there is a short chapter on soft tissue lesions at the end. This makes it easy to use by students and residents as an atlas to supplement their reading.

J S KHURANA
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 Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania,
 Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA

Dr Athanasou has produced an amazing collection of photomicrographs. This can be a wonderful reference source to begin a search for pathologic information for rheumatolo-

gists not familiar with more detailed studies on synovium or as a starting point from which to pursue treatment of the occasional patient who presents to us with bone tumours or soft tissue tumour-like lesions. The author can show only the main features of most lesions. A bibliography is provided, but specific references to many of the key statements would have been even better. I have already used this for a patient referred to me with an inguinal mass, possibly caused by retroperitoneal fibrosis. This would have been a rare cause of such a mass and the atlas helped guide me towards a desmoid tumour, which our pathologist then confirmed.

When the author turns to the synovium the terse descriptions are generally accurate but frustratingly incomplete for rheumatologists and clearly not intended as having an element of inflammation, but the author then concludes that this needs to be distinguished from rheumatoid arthritis, without sticking his neck out as to how to do this. Haemochromatosis, pigmented villonodular synovitis, and haemosiderin in synovium from trauma are all lumped together as siderotic without much of an attempt to tell us how to distinguish them. Rheumatoid arthritis is dealt with in four pages, which does not get beyond routine histology. There is a description of early rheumatoid arthritis but no basis is given for statements made.

I will use this more for a quick introduction to areas with which I am not familiar, like bone and soft tissue lesions, and I expect it to be a useful occasional source that I will keep available.

H R SCHUMACHER
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 University of Pennsylvania,
 Chief of Rheumatology,
 VA Medical Center, Philadelphia,
 USA