Book Reviews

Jean-Pierre Grünfeld Jean François Bach Jean-Louis Funck-Brentano Morton H. Maxwell
Advances in Nephrology, vol. 20
From the Necker Hospital
XXV+324 pp., E47.00
ISBN 0-8151-3589-0
This is the 20th volume from the Necker Hospital in its ‘Advances in Nephrology’ series. It is divided into 3 parts:
Part 1: A historical survey of 30 years in transplantation, renal anemia, hereditary aspects of calcium stories. This is a series of chapters including Henle’s loop susceptibility to hypoxia and toxic insults, morphometry of large artery structures in arterial hypertension and aging, pathogenesis of glomerulonephrosis (4 chapters).
Part 2: Clinical Nephrology and Hypertension.
This part begins with a review of the therapy of membranous nephropathy, and among others, there is an outstanding chapter from Denmark by Mogensen et al. on microalbuminuria.
Part 3: This part is devoted to dialysis and transplantation. There is a most excellent chapter on cardiovascular function in hemodialysis patients; a clear one on biocompatibility of membranes; one on clinical applications of anti-T-cell monoclonal antibodies; and T-lymphocyte adhesion.
The articles are written in excellent English, the printing and binding are pleasant to use, and the contents of this book are outstanding. The editor should be congratulated on having obtained such excellent review chapters. This is a clear recommendation to buy the volume and read it carefully. It is well worth the money.

John D. Williams A. William Asscher David B. Moffat Eric Sanders
Clinical Atlas of the Kidney
VIII+ 352 pp., 729 fig.; $ 195.00
ISBN 0-397-44593-8
This is a beautifully printed book, with the most excellent photographs and figures that can be obtained. It is an ideal atlas for teaching. The text is minimal as befits a book that the editors conceived as an adjunct to the many specialist texts that are currently available. Especially useful are the line drawings which accompany many of the photomicrographs, enabling the student to identify the structures without marring the originals by arrows and lines.
In summary: If you are a teacher of nephrology, this is a valuable asset for your bookshelf, but expect it to be ‘borrowed’ frequently by the residents in training.

W. H. Hörl
P. J. Schollmeyer
New Aspects of Human Polymorphonuclear Leukocytes
VIII+ 228 pp.; $69.50
This book is the result of a 1989 symposium on polymorphonuclear leukocytes held in Freiburg in 1989. It is of great interest to nephrologists not only because of its dealing with anticytoplasmic antibodies but because of some excellent articles on endotoxin stimulation, polymorph proteinases, neutrophil carbohydrate metabolism in uremia and essential hypertension, phagocyte function in uremia, C5a receptor on neutrophils and monocytes in uremia, aspects of oxidative metabolism in hemodialysis with different dialyzer membranes, and blood-flow-dependent granulocyte activation in membranes.

The papers are not only interesting but they shed light on a rapidly developing field. I highly recommend this book, whose main drawback is the dreadful ‘type’ appearance characteristic of Plenum Press Advances in Medicine series.

H. Endou A.C. Schoolwerth G. Baverel A. Tizianello
Molecular Aspects of Ammoniagenesis
Contributions to Nephrology, vol. 92
Karger, Basel 1991
X + 228 pp.; SFr. 216. – DM 259. – E 94.00
ISBN 3-8055-5368-1

The generation of ammonium from glutamine in renal tubular cells and its subsequent transport into the urine is a major renal adaptation to metabolic acidosis. This volume summarizes advances and new insights into these processes. Representing 31 presentations at the 5th International Workshop on Ammoniagenesis, it addresses the important questions under current investigation regarding metabolism, transport and the gene expression of the enzymes involved in ammoniagenesis. The volume is organized in seven sections: enzyme and substrate metabolism, pathophysiology of renal ammonia metabolism, ammonium metabolism in the human kidney, ammonium production and transport along the nephron, extrarenal ammonium metabolism, the use of NMR in ammonium metabolism and gene expression of glutaminase and its related enzymes. While relaying stage-of-the-art knowledge for the specialist the topics are sufficiently well introduced and referenced to be highly relevant to all nephrologists, biochemists and physiologists with an interest in acid-base homeostasis.

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