Book Reviews

J. G. Sinkovics
Medical Oncology – an Advanced Course

The author of this book is Professor of Medicine at the University of Texas System Cancer Center. His broad teaching experience enabled him to write a textbook for fellows and residents preparing themselves for subspecialty board examination of medical oncology. The book is a unique and highly successful attempt to yield hardcore advances from the most recent literature on neoplastic diseases. As such, it is based on 8,000 original publications derived from more than 400 scientific reviews and journals. It does not deal with basic information which could easily be found in textbooks. As the author stresses in the preface, for the sake of brevity, the style is often telegraphic. Contradictory data have been listed in order to stimulate the reader to study the original articles and to direct his attention to the current views related to newly emerging topics. The book is divided into six parts. The first chapter is devoted to the hemopoietic malignancies. In this part of the book modern concepts in leukemia research as well as diagnostic and therapeutic advances in the management of patients with hemoblastoses can be found. Immunology of leukemias and lymphomas is one of the major issues discussed. The second chapter deals with the diagnosis and treatment of mesenchymal solid tumors. It is obvious that the author is not only compiling the most recent knowledge on this relatively rare malignancies. But also being an expert in this field and author of many important publications gives his own personal opinion on the up-to-date management of these diseases. Part three summarizes present knowledge accumulated in the treatment of neuroectodermal and neurogenic tumors. Here again, pigment cell tumors and tumors of the central nervous system are carefully analyzed, based on the vast experience of the author. Part four is the chapter in which carcinomas as the most common forms of neoplastic diseases are discussed on more than 240 pages. The information gathered in this section of the book are all relevant to the goal of the author: namely to omit basic information and to teach the reader how to evaluate recent progress gained from numerous information sources. Part five is a summary of therapeutic procedures. The description of chemotherapeutic agents and hormones as well as principles and practice of chemotherapy are to be found. A critical assessment of immunotherapy is also presented. Supportive care is discussed in details. How to overcome infectious complications is the topic of further elaborations. The author, an experienced microbiologist, greatly assists to the everyday physician by explaining benefits and risks of antibiotic therapy. Part six devotes special attention. For the purpose of self-assessment a list of true and false statements, multiple-choice questions, matching problems, and patient-oriented problems are enclosed. Those who are capable to give the correct answer to these problems will be surely well equipped with up-to-date knowledge when treating the cancer patient.

This book can not only be highly recommended to fellows and residents who prepare themselves for a subspecialty board examina-
tion, but it is also an outstanding tool for refreshing the knowledge of every physician who participates in the care of patients with malignancies.

S. Eckhardt, Budapest
H. M. Pinedo
Cancer Chemotherapy 1980
This book is the second in a series published by the European Organization on Research and Treatment of Cancer which set the goal to review annually the progress made during the last year (deadline: May 1980) in the clinical research areas of cancer chemotherapy, and is a unique effort of such. The volume is not only a comprehensive survey of the rapidly growing knowledge on antitumor drugs based on more than 6000 references, but also a critical analysis of often contradictory findings as well as rather inconclusive statements. The first section of the book deals with data related to established cytostatic agents, including their mechanism of action, pharmacokinetics or rescue. New derivatives are also discussed summarized in various classes of compounds. A separate chapter is devoted to new substances and another to steroids. The immunotherapy of tumors is critically reviewed. The second section of the book spreads new information on chemotherapy of various major malignancies according to their site. A considerable amount of recent data is accumulated on leukemias and lymphomas. Among solid tumors, head and neck, lung, GI tract malignancies, endocrine tumors, genitourinary tumors, and gynecologic and breast cancer are discussed in separate chapters. Data on malignant melanomas, sarcomas, brain tumors and childhood malignancies are also subjected to detailed analysis. A list of abbreviations of drugs and of chemotherapeutic combinations is enclosed together with a subject index. This book is of extreme value to those clinicians and clinical research workers who need constant updating of their knowledge. The volume can be considered as an outstanding summary of what has been achieved in the past 12 months in clinical chemotherapy.

This book is a collection of 37 presentations from the Xth International Symposium on Cancer Centers, November 16-18, Düsseldorf. The stated purpose of the meeting was to learn how world leaders in the field of oncology are organizing and managing their efforts and to further these efforts through sharing of ideas and exchange of views. The diversity of perspectives is reflected in the international background of the authors, contributing articles based on experiences in the United States, Japan, Poland, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, Austria, Czechoslovakia, the United Kingdom and other regional settings. The primary audience for this publication should be individuals involved in the administration of cancer programs. Special emphasis is placed upon the responsibilities of statistical centers in the compilation and dissemination of information. The Symposium called upon representatives from various cancer centers to report examples of cancer center efficacy in the fields of interdisciplinary cancer care and cancer epidemiology, and a secondary audience of clinicians and epidemiologists should benefit from the international overview of recent developments in research.

The initial section of the book presents three articles from the United States, Japan, and Poland which provide background on types and concepts of cancer centers. General agreement is given to three goals of comprehensive centers: (1) to stimulate interaction between laboratory studies
and clinical trials; (2) to foster multi-disciplinary collaboration in patient care, and (3) to provide regional centers for dissemination of new developments. Several complexities are addressed in each setting.

The second section provides five articles describing the special role of centers in fostering documentation and data gathering. Presentations include material on the Cancer Center Patient Data System (CCPDS), the International Cancer Patient Data Exchange System (ICPDS), regional registries in Sweden, and the issues of uniform terminology and baseline data sets. While the authors address different concepts of data registries, the common theme is the impossibility of particular types of research in the absence of centralized data repositories. Nine authors contribute articles demonstrating the experiences and results of working cancer centers. Examples include regional collaboration in Switzerland in the absence of a university center, linking of basic and clinical findings on cancer chemotherapy, development of markers to discriminate malignant cells, and different modes of clinical trials.

The section on cancer epidemiology provides material relating to cancer of the breast, female reproductive organs, bone, stomach, intestine, lung, and urinary bladder. The final section presents ten articles illustrating the development of interdisciplinary care and community outreach programs of cancer centers. Examples include diagnosis of hemoblastomas, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, osteosarcoma, breast cancer, diagnostic radiology, head and neck tumor management, and regional tumor registries.

The book is brought to an appropriate conclusion by a critical synopsis from the editors. Cole stresses that despite the intuitive logic of an organized, multidisciplinary approach to research, the most likely prospect is that research advances will result from the work of individually driven basic scientists probing their small corner of the unknown. Furthermore, organizations must be prepared to adapt to the development of productive tangents that spin off from stagnant targeted programs. Finally, the size and complexity of an organization must not be allowed to inhibit individual creativity, as the author states, concluding on the optimistic note that cancer centers can enhance rather than constrain individual productivity as long as administration is treated as an enabling process rather than an end in itself.

G.P. Murphy, Buffalo, N. Y.
A.N. Gjorgov
Barrier Contraception and Breast Cancer
Contributions to Gynecology and Obstetrics, Vol. 8
Karger, Basel 1980
X + 162 pp.; SFr. 83.-/DM 99.-
ISBN 3-8055-0330-X

As the 8th volume of a series of monographs about various problems of gynecology and obstetrics, this book deals with a new hypothesis concerning the etiology of breast cancer. The monograph gives a comprehensive overview on the literature concerning the epidemiology and possible causative factors of breast cancer. The most important parts of this chapter elucidate the correlation of parity, lactation, hormonal imbalance, oral contraceptives and hormone administration with the incidence of breast cancer.

The conceptual framework of the study is based on the hypothesis: ‘an absence or a reduced exposure to biologically active seminal factors is a risk factor in breast cancer in women’. Prostaglandins are mentioned as possible semen factors. The cause of absence of the seminal factors is in general one of the barrier contraceptive methods, such as condom, withdrawal, celibacy, long-term abstinence, and male infertility. In order to confirm his suggestion, the
The author investigated 153 surviving patients with breast cancer married or never-married, aged 35-60 years. 168 healthy women matched for age and social status served as controls. According to statistical measurements women with breast cancer have a significantly higher exposure to barrier contraceptive practice during their reproductive lives in comparison to the group of control patients. As a conclusion, the author suggests the possibility of preventive measures in the frame of population policy.

The data published in this monograph need further confirmation from countries other than the US in order to compare geographical and social differences in this respect. The reader just wonders whether similar figures would appear when investigating the whole female population according to barrier contraception and incidence of breast cancer. A promising direction would be the investigation of the role of prostaglandins in the prevention of breast cancer.

S. T. Crooke, S. D. Reich
Anthracyclines: Current Status and New Developments

This book represents the proceedings of a workshop organized in 1979 on the chemistry, pharmacology and clinical application of anthracyclines. In the past few years, great interest has arisen from this group of antitumour compounds, since anthracyclines proved to be effective against human solid tumours. Among them, adriamycin (doxorubicin) has become general use in cancer therapy.

Due to the favourable clinical results achieved with adriamycin in the treatment of malignancies, further efforts were made in order to synthesize more effective and less toxic analogues. In order to reach this goal the mechanism of action of anthracyclines was carefully studied. In this volume N-alkylation, DNA-related antitumour activity of adriamycin and its derivatives are discussed. Effects of molecular pharmacology level as well as ultrastructural changes induced by these compounds are also topics of major importance. Screening and testing of antitumour activity of new anthracycline analogues are described as well as investigations on cardiotoxicity in animal models and on cardiac monitoring of patients which resulted in new findings of practical consequences for both experimental research workers and clinicians.

The current status of adriamycin and daunorubicin in cancer treatment is reviewed. A series of new analogues, most of them in phase I and II studies, is described. Among them, carminomycin, quelamycin, aclacinomycin, marcellomycin, AD-32, 7-Con-O-methyl-nogarol deserve special attention.

The book is an important and very informative contribution to the recent literature on cancer chemotherapy. The authors are outstanding scientists, the editors are highly competent and leading experts in antitumour therapy research.

Consequently, this volume is highly recommended to those active in experimental and clinical cancer research.

S. Eckhardt, Budapest
H. S. Kaplan
Hodgkin’s Disease; 2nd ed.
689 pp. E 30.-
ISBN 0-674-40485-8

Es gibt nur relativ wenige Beispiele von komplexen, multidisziplinären Darstellungen von Tumorerkrankungen in der Literatur. Bereits die erste Auflage des vorhegenden Buches von

In einer Zeit, in der die disziplinare Betrachtung von Tumorerkrankungen noch immer nicht endgültig überwunden ist, setzt das Buch entscheidende Maßstabe nicht nur für das Gebiet der Lym-phome, sondern für die gesamte klinische Onkologie. Man kann das Buch mit Recht als ein Standardwerk bezeichnen, das nirgendwo fehlen sollte, wo maligne Lymphome behandelt werden, und das vor alien Dingen für die Denk- und Arbeitsweise bei der Beschäftigung mit Tumorerkrankungen als einer multidisziplinären Aufgabe Maßstabe setzt.

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M.J. Brennan

Breast Cancer: New Concepts in Etiology and Control


This book covers 406 pages and is composed of four main parts: (1) etiologic and prognostic aspects of breast cancer; (2) endocri-nologic aspects of breast cancer; (3) viral aspects of breast cancer, and (4) immunological aspects of breast cancer. The chapters within these parts are constituted by separate papers complemented with reference lists. In addition to research workers of the Cancer Research Center of Michigan, several leading investigators of the USA and other countries of the world have contributed to this volume.

The first part includes, apart from the etiology and pathophysiology of breast cancer, other factors influencing the development of breast tumors and summarizes the methods and results of prognostic research developed by the authors. The end of this part is devoted to the in vitro and in vivo models of malignant transformation of the mammary gland and to the recent results obtained with these models (M.J. Brennan, A.B. Miller, M.A. Rich, D. Medina, B.B. Asch, B. Brinkley, M. L. Mace).

The second, and perhaps most important part is of direct practical importance. Herewith all salient and new findings of research on hormone dependence are discussed, methods of
examination critically analyzed and recent results in connection with the mechanism of action of hormone receptors reported. It has been stated that, among others, the ‘estrophilin’ content of estrogen receptors in the tumor bears a correlation with hormone sensitivity. In the case of a high estrophilin level, 80% of breast tumors respond to hormone therapy (E.R. Desombre, G.L. Greene, E. V. Jensen).

The third part of the book deals with viral aspects. In addition to discussing investigations with model tumors, it summarizes the results of studies on the viral antigens of human breast cancers. One of the most important findings is that in human breast cancer an antigen, which can be brought into immunological relation with the glycoproteins of mouse mammary gland tumors virus, could be detected (S. Spiegelman, R. Mesa-Tejada, I. Keydar, M. Ramanarayanan, T. Ohno, C. Fenoglio).

In the last part special emphasis is laid on the immunological and genetical alterations caused by viruses of the mammary gland. It has been stated that immunoprevention of breast tumors may result in incidental tumor induction (A. Frensdorff). The particular merit of this book lies in the fact that it gives a comprehensive survey on almost all up-to-date trends of breast cancer research.

Prognostic pathology, role of hormone dependence in the origination and development of breast cancer and the most important results of genetic and immunological research are discussed in a manner intelligible to all involved in cancer research. The rich and didactic documentation well serves the aim of this publication.

J. Sugar, Budapest
G. H. Sokol, R. P. Maickel
Radiation-Drug Interactions in the Treatment of Cancer

Cancer therapy concepts are constantly developing. In the last decade various combined modality approaches were clinically investigated. Among them the combination of radiotherapy plus drug therapy became a target of intensive experimental and clinical research. This book, edited by two outstanding pharmacologists, hopes to provide the reader with a basic knowledge of all preclinical and clinical areas of importance in cancer patient care from the fundamentals of radiophysics, radiobiology and pharmacology to their interaction and clinical application. The book is divided into three sections.

Section 1 summarizes the preclinical rationale and reports on the basic principles of radiation in physics and biology. As an addition, pharmacology of the most important anticancer agents is discussed. Section 2 deals with the clinical rationale. The chapter is devoted to the clinical pharmacology of anticancer drugs with special emphasis to their metabolite formation, while the pharmacokinetic and therapeutic implications of radiation effect on normal tissues are discussed in another chapter. Description of the radioprotective and the radio-sensitizer drugs and their potential application can be found in two further chapters. Immunologic consequences of irradiation and chemotherapy as well as tissue toxicity of radiation-drug interactions are elaborated in the subsequent chapters. Section 3 reports on current therapeutic applications. One chapter gives an overview on clinical combinations of radiation and drug therapy in managing pediatric tumors, while the best chapter is a summary of current clinical efforts to improve the therapeutic results by combined radiation and drug treatment in adult malignancies.

The volume is a result of a series of monographs with the purpose to bring together the various aspects of radiology and all its specialities so that the physician may maintain high standards of
professional knowledge. It can be stated that the authors succeeded in reaching this goal. The book can be recommended to scientists and clinicians who are involved in cancer research or patient care.
S. Eckhardt, Budapest

Erratum
In the paper by D. E. Maslow, E. Mayhew, and A. Mittleman, entitled ‘Cells from Normal and Malignant Human Colon Mucosa Differentially Inhibit Embryonic Cell Aggregation’, published in vol. 38, No. 5 (pp. 292-294), 1981, the second last sentence in the abstract should now read: Cells derived from nonmalignant tissues adjacent to malignant tumors were more inhibitory than those from normal individuals, which is consistent with described differences in this ‘transitional’ region.