Book Reviews

C.A. Parsons
Revised and Abbreviated Version of Diagnosis of Breast Diseases, Imaging, Clinical Features and Pathology
Chapman & Hall, London 1983
The book has been compiled on the basis of a cooperation of specialists covering all aspects of breast diseases. The opening chapters are devoted to histological techniques and clinical aspects, emphasizing especially mammography, and dealing critically with methods of cytology and thermography currently applied. In subsequent sections the use of high and new technologies such as liquid crystal thermography and echography for diagnostic purposes is discussed; future developments are considered. The final chapter deals with all the aspects of diagnosis in clinical practice. Methods described in the previous chapters are given in detail, with special regard to routine application. Screening of high-risk groups within a defined population is discussed, considering also economic points of view. The book closes with a well-compiled bibliography. Summing up, this book offers a fine survey of both the most recent and classical diagnosis methods; this should make it a welcome addition to the libraries of both oncologists and surgeons as well as specialists in the field of breast pathology.

Prof. Dr. S. Barg, Buenos Aires
Benjamin S. Leung
Hormonal Regulation of Mammary Tumors, Vol. 1
Steroid Hormones
MTP Press, Lancaster 1983
307 pp.; E 24.95
ISBN 0-85200-621-7
The book comprises 10 chapters. The first one describes the history of research and development of views on the role of hormones in formation and growth of breast tumors in mice and rats. The further 5 chapters (being the leading part of the book) mainly deal with the contribution of estrogens to promotion and growth regulation of breast tumors, in the light of the newest attainments concerning the molecular mechanisms of estrogen action in the cell. Some problems singled out comprise: estrogens in carcinogenesis, receptor mechanisms of estrogen action in normal and neoplastic cells, estrogen-dependent synthesis of specific proteins, the mechanisms of action of anliestrogens, suitability of receptor studies for evaluation of hormone reactivity of human breast cancers and for prognosis of the development rate of disease. The further 3 chapters deal with the receptor mechanism of action of progesterone, androgens and glycocorticosteroids on growth regulation and formation of some selected breast neoplasms. Finally discussion is made of steroid hormone transformations occurring in neoplasms, able to influence the tissue micro-environment, e.g. transformation of androgens into estrogens etc.
The various chapters are written by prominent investigators including E.V. Jensen, C.W. Welsch, E.R. DeSombre, W.L. McGuire, G. Shyamala and others. The book permits deep insight into the participation of steroid hormones in promotion and growth regulation of breast tumors in the light of the progress in cell biochemistry studies; it sums up the most recent attainments and lays out the developmental trends in this field. The book is very useful for biologists, biochemists and physicians engaged in experimental and clinical oncology.

T. Koszarowski, Warsaw

George Klein, Sidney Weinhouse Advances in Cancer Research, Vol. 39
Volume 39 of the series entitled ‘Advances in Cancer Research’ was edited by G. Klein and S. Weinhouse. As a tradition, it is a group of surveys on carefully selected topics of experimental cancer research. Editors put emphasis on those problems which recently gained wide interest. In addition, a clinical review on adjuvant chemotherapy for common solid tumors can also be found in the book. The reader finds a comprehensive summary of recent findings related to the neoplastic development in the airway epithelium (P. Nettesheim, A. Barchok). Two chapters are devoted to tumor immunology: concomitant tumor immunity in tumor-bearing rodents is the subject of analysis by E. Gorelik, while T. Boon describes the research on antigenic tumor cell variants obtained with mutagens. In the subsequent chapter D. and O. Miller discuss the genetic aspects of tumor development in rodents by summarizing studies in tumors, established cell lines and cell hybrids. Two chapters focus on tumor virology: B. Griffin and S. Dilworth give an overview on polyoma viruses and their unique properties, while the pathogenesis of oncogenic avian retroviruses – including the most fascinating research area of oncogenes - is surveyed by P. Enrietto and J. Wyke. A short but critical review on adjuvant chemotherapy assists the reader in updating his knowledge in this constantly debated area of clinical research. The book is an excellent example of showing how to disseminate new information effectively on rapidly developing research subjects, and can be highly recommended for all engaged in research on neoplastic diseases.

Eckhardt, Budapest

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Benjamin S. Leung
Hormonal Regulation of Mammary Tumors, Vol. 2
Peptide and Other Hormones
MTP Press, Lancaster 1983
283 pp.; E 24.95
ISBN 0-85200-633-0
This book mainly calls attention to the role of prolactin, i.e. to a hormone, which – similar to estrogens – contributes to the occurrence of breast cancer. The problems discussed comprise the promotive action of prolactin and placental lactogen on carcinogenesis, synergism with estrogens, molecular aspects of the mechanism of prolactin action in normal and neoplastic tissues (including the problem of receptors), synthesis of casein, cooperation of prolactin with other hormones (insulin, glucocorticosteroids, thyroid hormones) and with biological modulators of cell metabolism (prostaglandins, polyamines, cyclic nucleotides).
The text is written by several authors, this permitting a many-sided approach to these complex problems. The question of growth factors (other than hormones) in normal and neoplastic cells is of great interest. It is not yet known whether estrogens induce proliferation directly or via mediators formed, owing to these hormones, in other tissues. The problem of contribution of polypeptide hormones to promotion and growth regulation of breast tumors is extensively discussed, providing insight into this question of great importance for biology and medicine.

T. Koszarowski

well as giving some perspectives for future research in this important field. Another two articles are giving insight into recent approaches toward research on the biology of melanoma, dealing with biochemical markers such as precursors of melanin and their metabolites and also with the determination of steroid hormone receptors. The clinical features and the therapy of ocular melanoma as well as the appearance of aural melanoma in Japan are covered by two interesting articles. Finally, two contributions are devoted to the clinical management of malignant melanoma; the first shows surgical strategies developed for eradication of primary and metastatic disease. The second one gives detailed information of experiences of the WHO melanoma group on both present status and future prospects of adjuvant therapy. This very critical overview demonstrates that 'there are more trials which indicate the overall inefficacy of adjuvant treatment'. However, this article concludes that more sound knowledge of various prognostic factors, better planning of clinical trials and availability of more active agents might contribute to higher cure rates in patients with malignant melanoma in the future.

This book is an excellent, clear summary of all aspects of human melanoma, offering informations on current approaches to definition of the disease's biology as well as to the development of therapy strategies. It should be recommended to all scientists working in the fields of both clinical and experimental cancer research.

Dr. M. Micksche, Wien

Rona M. MacKie Pigment Cell, vol. 6 Malignant Melanoma Karger, Basel 1983
VIII+ 204 pp., SFr. 139.-, DM 166.-, $ 83.25
ISBN 3-8055-3690-9

This book is volume No. 6 of a monograph series edited as 'Pigment Cell' and devoted from its beginning to summarizing recent results of research on melanin-containing cells such as melanocytes and melanoma. The present volume is entirely dealing with human melanoma. Leading scientists working on experimental and clinical melanoma research have contributed. The articles published in this monograph cover all important topics presently investigated in different centres. The first chapter on epidemiology is reviewing several aspects of risks for the development of malignant melanoma, including exposure to sun, occupational and social situation, and variation of risk by age, sex, and pregnancy. The article states that in the past 10 years increasing informations have been gathered on most of these factors, stressing that the main scope should be prevention and early diagnosis of malignant melanoma. Two more articles are dealing with the histological features of tumors appearing as melanomas – aspects important for differential diagnosis as well as for establishing prognostic factors. The chapter on immunology is summarizing all recent knowledge on antigen expression on melanoma cells, humoral and cell-mediated immune response in patients and, furthermore, the present state of immunotherapy as

D.A. Casciato, B.B. Lowitz Manual of Bedside Oncology
In recent years bedside oncology with its growing demand for a broad practical knowledge has been repeatedly summarized in a standard book format. Most of the volumes published in this field so far are composed of two parts such as general principles and practice of cancer therapy as well as organ site oriented multimodal-ity treatment strategy. This manual, however, has more to offer. It not only describes the basic principles of treatment of malignancies and the methodology of how to perform the therapeutic procedures, but also reviews the complications of neoplastic diseases as well as how to cope with their consequences. In the same volume a series of appendices can be found related to drug schedules and costs of therapy calculated on a 1981-82 price basis. The style of the book is very instructive and rather telegraphic. The text is easy to memorize since each chapter has a very clear and logical structure. Epidemiology, etiology, pathology, natural history, diagnosis, staging, prognostic factors, prevention, early detection, management and special clinical problems are discussed for each organ site. Despite the technical nature of the material discussed, the authors have maintained an underlying approach in caring for cancer patients. In summary, this book is a treasury of information for the medical community.

S. Eckhardt, Budapest

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I.-L. Cameron, Th.B. Pool The Transformed Cell

This book presents an updated summary of the informations available on differences existing between transformed cells and their normal counterparts. Changes in malignant cells have been documented during the recent years – among them alteration of cell surface, cytoskeleton, in vitro behavior (infinite proliferation, loss of contact inhibition) – are reviewed in the articles. Furthermore, differences in cyclic nucleotides, polyamine metabolism, state of water, viscosity, element content as well as changes in energy metabolism and membrane transport are given in detail in the various chapters. Beside a review of all available data the articles offer also an excellent critical information on methods which may be used for determining such changes in transformed cells. Moreover each chapter includes a comprehensive bibliography which will help those readers who are interested in obtaining more detailed knowledge about the different approaches.

This book is an excellent presentation of informations so far available on characteristics of malignant cells and is, therefore, highly to be recommended to all scientists working in cancer research or related fields.

Dr. M Micksche, Wien

enzymes and also growth factors are associated with transformed cells, too. Furthermore, evidence is given that antigens are shared between fetal cells and adult thymic and testicular cells, which might support the notion that it should be possible to produce a vaccine against anaplastic neoplasm and to use it for prophylactic immunization. Other important contributions are dealing with human chorionic gonadotropin, the problem of parity and susceptibility to cancer. Finally, the antigen expression as demonstrated on both rodent and human tumor cells by xenogenic polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies is leading to certain diagnostic and therapeutic applications of these antibodies.
Beside these very interesting articles the book contains also the discussion on each of the presentations, thus giving also information on critical counterpoints raised by the contributions. The volume is an excellent summary of the present knowledge on fetal antigens and of ongoing research projects. It can be recommended to scientists working in the fields of clinical as well as experimental cancer research.

Dr. M. Micksche, Wien
G.P. Murphy
Cancer of the Prostate

W.K. Bodmer
Fetal Antigens and Cancer
Selected contributions of the symposium on ‘Fetal Antigens and Cancer’ held in London in July, 1982, are presented in this book. Each chapter offers a survey on the different aspects of embryonic antigen (EA) expression on malignant and nonmalignant cells. In chapter 1 the hypothesis is presented that neoplasia results from a disorder of some normal stem cells. Chapter 2 describes the interrelationship between EA and the immune system which, finally, results in an immune response against EA. Further chapters are dealing with genes controlling EA, the expression of EA on the cell surface, the immune response against parentally inherited histocompatibility antigens and with the relationship of tumor antigens to normal tissue antigens. Another part covers the functional significance of tumor-associated cell surface alterations, showing that, beside EA antigen, tumor-associated proteases, oncogene expression, and gene expression alterations may be important. This book is composed of 12 articles written by experts in prostate cancer. Epidemiology and aetiology by C. Mettlin, the diagnostic and prognostic significance of histology by J. Gaeta, clinical and pathological staging by Z. Wajsman and steroid hormone receptors in prostate cancer by A. Sandberg are chapters serving a theoretical background for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. The recent immunological and non-invasive imaging techniques by J. Edson Pontes represent new approaches for detecting prostatic malignancies in an early stage. Therapy is divided into endocrine therapy by J. Schmidt, external radiotherapy by H. Herr, interstitial radiotherapy by J. Elder, surgery by J. Elder and R. Gibbons. Chemotherapy is discussed in two chapters; results of chemotherapy protocols of the USA National Prostatic Cancer Project are reviewed by N. Slack, while the development of new drugs with potential activity against prostate cancer are surveyed by P. Creaven, A. Mittelman and S. Madajewicz. The importance of animal models for future research is stressed in the last chapter written by J. Isaacs. As G. Murphy, guest editor of the volume, emphasizes in the foreword this book constitutes a significant summary of advances associated with the improvement in detection and survival rate of prostatic cancer. Therefore it can be recommended for medical and surgical oncologists, and radiotherapists, as well as for all involved in the research of this widespread malignancy.

S. Eckhardt, Budapest