Book Reviews

Peter M. Howler, Thomas R. Broker (eds) Papillomaviruses
Molecular and Clinical Aspects UCLA Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology, New
This volume of the book series ‘UCLA Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology’ deals with
molecular and clinical aspects of human and animal papillomavirus infections. The book
represents a collection of publications of scientists participating in this meeting. Their
contributions give a broad overview over the pathogenicity and molecular biology of
papillomaviruses. The ongoing research on histological and clinical aspects, analysis of the
tumors induced and their treatment (e.g. human genital tract diseases, oral laryngeal diseases and
cutaneous diseases) is well presented in different chapters. The molecular biology part deals with
transcription, replication, genome organization, transformation, and the construction of viral
vectors, i.e. all important areas are covered in depth.
The references given in the articles could serve as a tool to get a good survey on many aspects of
papilloma virology. The quality of the different articles varies to some extent, nevertheless the
book is a remarkable contribution to this field and worth reading for both clinicians and
molecular biologists and should be part and parcel of all libraries of institutes working in the
field of human virology. Doubtless this volume is a useful and valuable supplement to the library
of virus-orientated institutes.

W. Waldeck, Heidelberg

Richard Turnbull Terminal Care
This volume reflects the views of a group of highly dedicated doctors and nurses on terminal
care of incurable patients. It represents an interesting piece of written expertise in a series of
books edited by the same authors on death education, aging and health care.
Pain control and relief from other symptoms are the topics in the first part of the book. A special
chapter deals with the bereavement care. The staff and its role in terminal care are discussed on
the next pages and here the significance of the team approach is greatly emphasized. Education
and research in terminal care as well as description of established terminal care programs are to
be found in the last part of the volume.
After reading this book one has the feeling that the authors are able to identify the principal
advantages of the hospice concept and can wisely propose proper methods for solving the most
important problems encountered during the period of terminal care.
Nevertheless, they ignore several important references. For example, when discussing pain
control, it would be mandatory to mention the WHO pain control program which has been
recently initiated on a global scale. It is also essential to list those publications which deal with
cancer nursing. Information for Europe are scarce and the Scandinavian or French experience is
completely lacking in the book. Moreover, the great majority of references date from the period
before 1982.
Despite of these limitations the book is a successful and honest argument in favour of the establishment of hospices where incurable patients may die with dignity.

S. Eckhardt, Budapest

Enrico Mihich, Yoshio Sakurai Immunomodulation by Anticancer Drugs

The series of publications, in which the volume under review is the third, deals with the problem of interaction between neoplastic and normal cells. Such interaction, especially during employment of anticancer drugs, takes place via the immune system, as many anticancer agents exert an immunomodulating activity. The International Seminar in Sapporo, Japan (1983) was devoted to this problem.
The book consists of 7 chapters, Chapter 1 serves as an introduction to the book and describes the main concepts of the structure of the immune system, its major cellular components and regulation of the immune response, the antitumor one included. The remaining chapters elucidate the immunomodulating activity of antitumor drugs of this or that group in different model systems. It is not a collection of presentations given at the Seminar, but the survey of principal data reflecting the viewpoint developed by the participants of this Seminar.
Chapters 2-7 discuss in consequence order the following groups of anticancer agents; antimetabolites, antibiotics, alkylating agents, some chemotherapeutic drugs (vincristine, vinblastine, adenosine deaminase inhibitors, cis-platinum, dicarbazine, nitrosoureas), glucocorticoids and anticancer agents employed in bone marrow transplantation. The bulk of data suggests that the majority of anticancer agents applied today are strong immunomodulators, differently affecting separate subpopulations of the immune cells and immune links, expression of antigens on tumor cells, production of lymphokines. Some of the agents have such a highly pronounced immunomodulating effect (e.g. cyclophosphamide) that in certain doses and schemes of application they could be considered rather as modifiers of biological response than cytostatics. At least, a number of effects produced by many drugs on the immune system could not be explained by mere suppression of proliferation of immunocompetent cells. That is why prompt accumulation of new data seems necessary for further careful consideration of this important aspect in the action of anticancer drugs when used for cancer patients.

It should be borne in mind that even substances having analogous structure differently influence immunity, and a similar biochemical mechanism of action is not responsible for a similar action on different components of the immune system. Target-orientated studies are required.
The book is useful and well-timed. Its contents should be taken into consideration by practising oncologists as new data on the issue will obviously come forth.

N. Napalkov, Leningrad

L.M. Franks, N. Teich (eds) Introduction to the Cellular and Molecular Biology of Cancer

The book is an experiment undertaken by the editors, Leonard Maurice Franks and Natalie Teich, to give a general survey on recent knowledge of the whole field of cancer research, treatment and prevention. Each topic (cancer pathology, development and spread, carcinogenesis, cancer diagnosis, methods of control, prevention and treatment) is written in an easily comprehensible,
clear style by an author who is actively engaged in this special field. The editors and contributors have successfully drawn a line from experimental work (cancer pathology, epidemiology, carcinogenesis), through knowledge of cellular and molecular biology (relationships between DNA, viruses, oncogenes, chromosomes, growth factors, hormones and cancer) up to the possibilities of cancer-treatment (surgery, radio- and chemotherapy).

The different chapters have been written by several authors in a uniform pattern. After a short introduction the problem is precisely described. The content is supported by excellent figures and well-understandable schemas. The chapters are completed with a critical look at future prospects, a methodical review or a summary. Instead of long lists of references the authors offer very recent reviews or monographs for further reading. The glossary at the end of the book will be of great interest and very helpful for all readers who are not experts of cellular and molecular biology of cancer.

In summary, I wish that the book will find a broad audience students and doctors, individuals interested and scientists engaged in cancer research.

St. Tanneberger, Berlin-Buch