This is an extremely important and useful book. The unexpected outbreak of the AIDS pandemic focused interest on viral suppression of immune functions. The discovery of the virus causing AIDS, the human T-cell lymphotropic virus (HTLV-III) and its properties are described in a most excellent contribution by R.C. Gallo and his associates. Gallo’s discovery of this retrovirus family (HTLV-I, II and III) and of the T-lymphocyte growth factor (Interleukin 2) provided a firm basis for further research and thinking in this enormously important area. The papers in the present volume clearly show that many other viruses also exert temporary or permanent suppressive effects on different parts of the immune system. The immunosuppressive role of cytomegalovirus, measles virus, adenoviruses, and that of herpes viruses are exhaustively and expertly discussed. The last section deals with the involvement of biological response modifiers (e.g. interferon and other cytokines) in virus-included immune suppression. This very stimulating book is a must for immunologists and clinicians as well.

Paul Kallós, Helsingborg

The editors point out in their preface that ‘the age of the T-cell receptor’ is presently unfolding. Therefore, reviews summarizing the ‘state of the art’ in recognition and regulation of cell mediated immune responses are to be welcomed. The contributions to the first section deal expertly with the role of the thymus (Scollay and Shortman, Rothenberg et al.). The second section is devoted to the development of recognition and the T-cell receptors. There are stimulating reviews by e.g. v.Boehmer et al., Waterfield, and Fink and Bevan. The structure of the T-cell receptor is exhaustively and lucidly discussed by Herbert and Watson and by Booth. Kappler, Marrack and Karjalainen contributed a stimulating review entitled ‘Antigen recognition by helper T-cells and hybridomas’. The third part contains exhaustive reviews concerning the chemistry and functions of Interleukins, a most timely and important subject. The last section deals with the regulation of T-cell function, with contributions by Swain, Marbrook, Pilarski, and v.Boehmer et al. This
News Item

The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, as the WHO Collaborating Center for Allergic Diseases.

The functions of the Center will be:
- Coordination of activities under the WHO Program on Allergic Diseases,
- Provision of advice to those countries wishing to establish a national program.
- To assist in the preparation of teaching material on allergy.
- To coordinate epidemiologic research to assess the prevalence and socioeconomic importance of allergic diseases.

Dr. Sheldon G. Cohen, Director of the Immunology Allergic and Immunologic Diseases Program at NIAID, serves as Head of the WHO Center, and Dr. Richard Evans, III, of Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, is Chief of Epidemiologic Programs.