Book Review

G.A. Simon, Z. Paster, M.A. Klingberg and M. Kaye (eds.)
Skin: Drug Application and Evaluation of Environmental Hazards
Current Problems in Dermatology, vol. 7 Karger, Basel 1978

The 7th volume in the series ‘Current Problems in Dermatology’ is devoted to cutaneous toxicology. It contains the papers presented at the 22nd OHOLO Biological Conference in 1977 in Ma’alot (Israel). The subjects are: animal models for human skin toxicity, assays on humans for irritancy, permeability of the skin, clinical aspects of toxicology.

In the opening paper, Kligman discusses broadly how to recognize and foretell a noxious substance. He mentions the various tests done with external substances. Frosh and Kligman then present a list of some 80 well-known dermatological compounds, classified according to their irritancy index. Papers by Lansdown and by Meyer et al. tackle the problem how tests on animal skin can be informative for human skin toxicity.

About half of the book is devoted to papers on percutaneous absorption. Scheuplein gives a review of the major concepts. The factors affecting absorption are discussed by Creasey et al., by Chandrasekaran and Shaw, and by Wurster. Idson studies the effect of hydration, Higushi that of the chemical structure, and Poulsen et al. the use of mixtures of topical steroids. An in vitro model for the measurement of percutaneous absorption is presented by Franz; Schaefer et al. write about the use of radiolabelling for the same purpose. A microreview on collagen is given by Shoshan.

In the more clinical field, papers are presented on housewives’ eczema of the hands and dichromate sensitivity (Feuerman), on the loss of intravenously administered gentamycin through burned skin (Cohen et al.), on the lead content of pubic and axillary hair after lead acetate dyeing of scalp hair (Marzulli et al.).

The buyer of this book should be aware that it consists of papers presented at a meeting. Although most of the individual contributions are indeed well done and interesting, the overall result is rather patchy and gives only partial information. E. Van Hecke

Varia
Dermatopathology
Rome, 3–4 May 1980

Under the sponsorship and organization of the Foundation for Research in Dermatology an intensive 2 day course entitled ‘Histologic Diagnosis of Inflammatory Skin Diseases: A Method by Pattern Analysis’ will be given by Dr. A.Bernard Ackerman.

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Professor of Dermatology and Pathology and Director of Dermatopathology, New York University School of Medicine, at the Catholic University, Policlinico Gemelli, Rome, Italy, on Saturday and Sunday, May 3rd and 4th, 1980.
A method will be taught for making specific histologic diagnoses of inflammatory diseases in the skin by recognition of nine distinctive patterns, namely, superficial peri-vascular dermatitis, superficial and deep perivascular dermatitis, vasculitis, nodular and diffuse dermatitis, subepidermal vesicular dermatitis, folliculitis and perifolliculitis, fibrosing dermatitis, and panniculitis. Enrollment is limited, and enquiries should be directed to: Ferdinando Serri, MD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Dermatology, Università Cattolica, Largo Gemelli 8, 1–00168 Rome, Italy.

Dermatopathology Symposium
Vienna, May 8, 1980
An international dermatopathology symposium co-organized by A.B. Aekerman, New York University, K. Konrad, W. Gebhart, University of Vienna, and H. Kerl, University of Graz, will be held on May 8th, 1980, in Vienna, Austria. Anyone wishing to contribute or to attend should contact Dozent Dr. K. Konrad, Department of Dermatology i, University of Vienna, A-1090 Vienna (Austria).

7th European Meeting of the Society of Cutaneous Ultrastructure Research
Vienna, May 9–10, 1980
Anyone wishing to contribute or to attend this Meeting should contact Dozent Dr. W. Gebhart, Department of Dermatology II, University of Vienna, A-1090 Vienna (Austria).

Symposium on Dermatopathology
Condado, Puerto Rico, March 1–4, 1980
A symposium entitled ‘Cutaneous Malignant Lymphomas, Pseudolymphomas and Leukemias’ will be held at Condado, Puerto Rico, on March 1–4, 1980. The symposium is co-sponsored by the Departments of Dermatology and Pathology of the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine and by the Departments of Dermatology and Pathology of New York University School of Medicine. It is co-directed by Jorge L. Sanchez, MD, Director of the Department of Dermatology, University of Puerto Rico, and A. Bernard Aekerman, MD, Professor of Dermatology and Pathology, and Director of Dermatopathology at New York University. Inquiries should be directed to: Jorge L. Sanchez, MD, UPR School of Medicine, GPO Box 5067, San Juan, PR 00936 (USA).