Drug Dosage
The authors and publisher have exerted every effort to ensure that drug selection and dosage set forth in this text are in accord with current recommendations and practice at the time of publication. However, in view of ongoing research, changes in government regulations, and the constant flow of information relating to drug therapy and drug reactions, the reader is urged to check the package insert for each drug for any change in indications and dosage and for added warnings and precautions. This is particularly
important when the recommended agent is a new and/or infrequently employed drug

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Printed in Switzerland by Boehm-Hutter AG, Reinach BL

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List of Contributors

Abiodun-Wright, O.M., Department of Surgery, College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria
Aisbjörn, .F., Department of Plastic Surgery and Burns Unit, Kbenhavns Kømmunes Hvidovre Hospital, University of Copenhagen, Hvidovre, Denmark
Arturson, G., Institute for Plastic Surgery, Uppsala University, Burn Center, University Hospital, Uppsala, Sweden
Al-Baker, A.A., Surgical Departments, Hamad General Hospital, Doha, State of Qatar
Boswick, J., Jr., University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver, Colo. USA
Brudzynska-Charewicz, S., Faculty of Medicine, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland
Bunyan, J., Walmer, Deal, Kent, England
Campbell, G., Chelmsford Medical Centre, St. Augustines Hospital, Durban, Republic of South Africa
Clumeck, N., Infectious Disease Unit, Saint-Pierre University Hospital, University of Brussels, Brussels, Belgium
Coker, A.O., Department of Microbiology, College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria
Cran, S., Infectious Disease Unit, Saint-Pierre University Hospital, University of Brussels, Brussels, Belgium
Cuzzell, J., The New York Firefighters Skin Bank, The New York Hospital, New York,
List of Contributors IX

Hall, G., Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va., USA
Hamm, D., Research for Animal Health, Inc., Fayetteville, Ark., USA
Haynes, B.W., Jr., Division of General and Trauma Surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va., USA
Hestermans, Y., Department of Surgery, Saint-Pierre University Hospital, University of Brussels, Brussels, Belgium
Housková, E., Department of Plastic Surgery, Burn Center, Charles University, Prague, Czechoslovakia
Jaspar, N., Surgical Intensive Care Unit, Saint-Pierre University Hospital, University of Brussels, Brussels, Belgium
Jöchle, W., Wolfgang Jöchle Associates, Inc., Denville, N.J., USA
Kiène, S., University Surgery Clinic, Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University, Greifswald, GDR
Klein, G.K.V., Department of Surgery, Parkview Memorial Hospital, Brunswick, Me., USA
Klein, P., St. Elisabeth Hospital, Ravensburg, FRG
Kline, B.J., Squibb Institute for Medical Research, New Brunswick, N.J., USA
Kluckinski, W., Faculty of Medicine, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland
Kopec, J., Faculty of Medicine, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland
Krupp, S., Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Service, Vaudois University Hospital Center, Lausanne, Switzerland
Laurentaci, G., Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Polyclinic University Hospital, University of Bari, Bari, Italy
Leb, J., Department of Pediatric Surgery, Peterfy S. u. Hospital, Budapest, Hungary
Ley, R., Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Saint-Pierre University Hospital, University of Brussels, Brussels, Belgium
Magliacani, G., Division of Plastic Surgery and Burns Unit, Traumatological Center, Turin, Italy
Maillard, G.F., Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland
Masellis, M., Burn and Plastic Surgery Department, Civic Hospital, Palermo, Italy
May, S.R., Southeastern Burn Research Institute; Humana Hospital Augusta Burn Center; Department of Surgery, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Ga., USA
Mayhall, CG., Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va., USA
Menier, M., Department of Surgery, Saint-Pierre University Hospital, University of Brussels, Brussels, Belgium
Meredith, P., Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Unit, Cantonal Hospital, Geneva, Switzerland
Micheels, J., Department of Plastic Surgery and Burns Unit, K0benhavns Kommunes Hvidovre Hospital, University of Copenhagen, Hvidovre, Denmark
Montandon, D., Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Unit, Cantonal Hospital, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland
Moserovä, J., Department of Plastic Surgery, Burn Center, Charles University, Prague, Czechoslovakia
Nasilowski, W., Faculty of Medicine, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland
Nasrin-Monfared, H., Solco Basel Ltd., Birsfelden, Switzerland
Pegg, S.P., Surgery and Burns Unit, Royal Brisbane Hospital, Brisbane, Australia

List of Contributors X

Polk, R.E., School of Pharmacy, Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va., USA
Remagen, W., Department of Pathology, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland
Rudowski, W.J., Department of Surgery, Institute of Hematology, Faculty of Medicine, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland
Rusiniak, L., Department of Surgery, Institute of Hematology, Faculty of Medicine, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland
Sitarska, E., Faculty of Medicine, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland
Smahel, J., Research Laboratory, Surgical Clinic B, University Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland
Smith, J., School of Pharmacy, Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va., USA
Sorensen, B., Department of Plastic Surgery and Burns Unit, K0benhavns Kommunes Hvidovre Hospital, University of Copenhagen, Hvidovre, Denmark
Sowemimo, G.O.A., Department of Surgery, College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria
Steinmann, R., Division of General Surgery, German Military Forces Hospital, Ulm, FRG
Stevenson, R.E., American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, Md., USA
Swensson, E., Division of General and Trauma Surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va., USA
Teich-Alasia, S., Division of Plastic Surgery and Burns Unit, Traumatological Center,
Preface

During the past decade, important advances have been made in the care of the burned patient, and now hundreds of papers are published annually on different aspects of this speciality field. Developments in treatment techniques have resulted in the control of the acute physiological problems of burn victims, so that many more are now being saved from death than was possible in the past. However, recent meetings on burn care have emphasized two points. First, more than half of all mortalities experienced in burn treatment centers are the result of infection. Second, new knowledge of the mechanisms of wound healing are beginning to have practical results in the development of new wound dressings. These developments have focused the attention of burn care providers on the burn wound itself, and especially on the areas of infection control and wound coverage.

The congress, 'Care of the Burn Wound', was held on May 4–6, 1983 in Geneva, Switzerland, under the joint sponsorship of the International Society for Burn Injuries and the World Health Organization. This congress was the first of these annual meetings of the International Society to focus solely on infection control, grafts and transplantation, and synthetic skin substitutes. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together the 66 participating burn clinicians and researchers from around the world who presented recent developments relating to the care of the burn wound itself. Based upon the papers submitted, the congress was organized into six sections, which included: infection control, topical wound healing agents, evaluation and treatment techniques, skin transplantation, biologic dressings and skin banking, and synthetic skin substitutes. Each section was composed of four to eight papers which presented recent developments in the area. All presentations reported clinical experience as well as the results of scientific experiments, and many of the new techniques enumerated by the participants are suitable for immediate application in the care of burn wounds. The work presented will be most useful to burn clinicians, burn researchers, plastic surgeons, trauma surgeons, professionals involved in wound healing research and the development of wound dressings, surgical nurses and technicians, skin bankers, and professionals interested
in infection control.
It is the hope of the editors that the publication of this congress will encourage increased participation in future congress sponsored by the International Society for Burn Injuries and the World Health Organization. These meetings provide a forum for the critical interchange of ideas and goals throughout the world community of burn care specialists. Such an interchange is particularly important in this time of rapid development of new technological solutions to the vexing medical problems of burn injury.

S. Randolph May, PhD,
Director,
Southeastern Burn Research Institute,
Humana Hospital Augusta Burn Center;
and Clinical Associate Professor,
Department of Surgery,
Medical College of Georgia,
Augusta, Ga., USA

Giovanni Dogo, MD,
Director,
Institute of Plastic Surgery; and
Professor,
University of Padua, Padua, Italy

Foreword

The editors of 'Care of the Burn', Drs. S. Randolph May and Giovanni Dogo, and assembled a distinguished group of individuals with extensive experience in burn prevention, care, teaching, and research for a three-day congress on six major areas of burn work. In the section on infection control, papers were presented by six different groups representing six countries and four different continents. The geographic diversity of this material signifies the international importance of this problem and the attempts at better understanding and management. In the eight presentations on 'Topical Wound Healing Agents', new drugs to reduce edema, stimulate cell proliferation, increase metabolism, and debride devitalized tissue were discussed. Much of this work was basic investigation that should promote further research and the development of clinical applications in many areas of wound care.

New and unusual problems were presented in the papers on 'Evaluation and Treatment Techniques'. Some of this material was original work being presented for the first time, and others covered years of treatment
of specific techniques and large numbers of patients. The three sessions on 'Skin Transplantation', 'Biological Dressings and Skin Banking', and 'Synthetic Skin Substitutes' focused on the issue of the major problem that we have in caring for burn patients and the attainment of wound closure. The presentations in these sections ranged from topics of basic immunology to the care of extensive burns and the latest developments in skin substitutes. The editors, who were the congress planners, are to be congratulated on organizing this comprehensive conference on an important problem.

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and the arrangement for publication of the edited presentation. Their efforts are a tribute to the International Society of Burn Injuries and the World Health Organization, which sponsored the meeting.

John A. Boswick, Jr., MD, FACS,
Secretary General,
The International Society for Burn Injuries,
Professor of Surgery,
The University of Colorado, Denver, Colo., USA