

# Gut

*Journal of the British Society of Gastroenterology  
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teacher. As pressure of the clock seems to close in on many endoscopy lists, the ability to deflect this pressure and allow trainees enough time to do sufficient to learn is a hallmark of the good teacher. Sometimes, it is necessary to speed up the pupil list, as Cotton and Williams have obviously learned from their vast experience, a 'slow, thoughtful endoscopist with integrity can learn to excel, whereas the aggressive and erratic often remains so'.

IAN FORGACS

**Liver and Biliary Diseases.** 2nd ed. Edited by N Kaplowitz. (Pp 783; illustrated; £125.00). Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1996. ISBN 0-683-04545-8.

Although first impressions are often powerful they are not always correct. Although I recognise the old adage that you only have one opportunity of making a first impression, further thought and understanding often indicate such initial impressions are mistaken. When I first received the second edition of *Liver and Biliary Diseases*, I had a mild 'heart sink'. Everything appeared to be adverse: the cover of the book is unprepossessing, a rather murky green, which seemed to suggest neither deep scholarship and intellectual rigor nor the more modern folksy approaches to those text books aimed at medical students. There have been several new text books on hepatology issued in the past couple of years and this was not an auspicious start to a second edition of one of these. Inside, impressions again remained unexciting. The quality of the paper was unexciting, the print old fashioned, and even the colour illustrations were of poor quality. Yet closer examination of the text and actually reading the textbook showed just how wrong these first impressions are.

Overall, the contents of this book are first rate. It is almost completely an American textbook with a wide spectrum of authors almost entirely working in the USA. None the less, it travels well. The first two sections concentrate on the structure, function, and pathophysiology of liver disease. These provide a clear and relatively up to date account of both anatomy and physiology of the liver at a level of detail which I found right.

After four chapters discussing diagnostic methodologies in hepatology, there follows chapters on acute and chronic liver diseases. All chapters are well written and comprehensive. While I am not sure how much editorial rigor was imposed certainly the book reads extremely well and coherently despite some minor inconsistencies. I particularly enjoyed the approach of highlighting important sentences within the text. I also appreciated the relative lack of including references in the text. The authors have adopted an annotated bibliography and here is one of my criticisms. The bibliography, quite appropriately, refers to reviews. However, relatively few are up to date. It is inevitably a consequence of the textbook format that there is a significant delay between submission of manuscripts and publications but many of the bibliographic references are to review articles published before 1991. The only other criticism I have of note is that the colour illustrations are poorly done and the legends to the figures are not juxtaposed with the figures themselves.

Overall, I thought this was an excellent book with the right balance of anatomy, phys-

iology, and pathology. There are plenty of illustrations, which not only break up the text but also provide information in a useful form. The price of £125, which seems a lot is certainly no greater than other comparable textbooks and I would have no hesitation in recommending it not only to hepatologists but also to those gastroenterologists who look after patients with liver disease.

JAMES NEUBERGER

**Cell Adhesion Molecules in Cancer and Inflammation.** Edited by A A Epenetos and M Pigantelli. (Pp 230; illustrated). Chur, Switzerland: Harwood Academic, 1995. ISBN 3-7186-5516-0.

This is the first volume of a series entitled *Cell Adhesion and Communication* edited by C Goridis. Such a series is warranted because there has been vast accumulation of knowledge concerning cell adhesion during the past decade. It has become clear that adhesion of cells to each other and to the extracellular matrix not only stabilises a multicellular organism, but also controls cell migration, cell function, and cell differentiation. This has led to a growing scientific interest in molecules involved in these adhesive interactions that play a crucial part in many physiological processes. Furthermore, adhesive interactions are implicated in pathological processes like inflammation, wound healing and especially in cancer growth, invasion, and metastasis.

This book is described as an up to date summary of the clinical applications of adhesion molecule research focusing on the part played by adhesion molecules in cancer and inflammation. However, this goal is not reached by all the contributions. It contains 19 chapters written by 17 different groups representing a heterogeneous group of persons working in this field. It starts with a brief and excellent overview of the different classes of cell-cell and cell-matrix adhesion molecules in neoplasia by M Pignatelli *et al*, reviewing the literature until 1993. This is followed by a detailed description of the immunohistological work on the expression of integrin and E-cadherin cell adhesion molecules in the normal human breast, non-neoplastic breast disease, and in breast cancer by the same authors. While there are several other worthwhile review articles, for example, on the role of adhesion receptors in the dissemination of non-Hodgkin lymphomas by S T Pals *et al*, or the regulation of integrin expression by TGF- $\beta$  by J Heino, most articles describe experimental results of basic science research, the clinical relevance of which remains to be established. Thus one article describes the discovery of a novel molecule that must be further characterised, which mediates the laminin induced differentiation of a retinoblastoma cell line, and another one a new monoclonal antibody against P-selectin.

Some articles, such as the description of raised serum t-PA values in breast cancer patients versus normal controls are only tangentially related to the topic. On the other hand despite the large amount of previously published data concerning cell adhesion and the inflammatory immune response, this whole field is touched on by only two articles, both focusing on epithelial expression of cell-cell adhesion molecules.

In summary, this book presents experimental data related to the topic of cell adhe-

sion and cancer and gives an overall impression of the diversity of experimental approaches and direction of further investigations. This may be of interest for scientists planning to work in this field. Because of the rapid scientific progress in cell adhesion research the volume inevitably will quickly become outdated. Given that the review content of this book is rather limited – gastroenterological tumours are not discussed in great detail and the possible clinical use of the results still remains to be investigated – it is of limited value to the broad readership of gastroenterologists.

E O RIECKEN

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## NOTES

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### Sir Francis Avery Jones BSG Research Award 1997

Applications are invited by the Education Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology who will recommend to Council the recipient of the 1997 Diamond Jubilee Award. Applications (**twenty copies**) should include:

- (1) A manuscript (2 A4 pages *only*) describing the work conducted.
- (2) A bibliography of relevant personal publications.
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Entrants must be 40 years or less on 31 December 1997 but need not be a member of the BSG. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Diamond Jubilee meeting of the Society in March 1997. Applications (**twenty copies**) should be made to the Honorary Secretary, BSG, 3 St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LB, by 1 December 1996.

### Paediatric gastroenterology

The 5th Congress of the Asian Pan Pacific Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition will be held on 10–13 April 1997 in Taipei. Further information from Conference Secretariat, c/o K and A International, Co Ltd, PO Box 55-1143, Taipei, Taiwan. Tel 886-2 516 3952; fax: 886-2 516 2516.

### Clinical investigation

The 31st meeting of the European Society for Clinical Investigation will be held on 19–22 March 1997 in Kiel, Germany. Further information from Congress Office, CPO Hanser Service, PO Box 12 21, D-22882 Hamburg-Barsbüttel, Germany. Tel: 49 40 670 88 20; fax 40 670 32 83.

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*Gut* publishes original papers, short rapid communications, leading articles, and reviews concerned with all aspects of the scientific basis of diseases of the alimentary tract, liver, and pancreas. Case reports will only be accepted if of exceptional merit. Letters related to articles published in *Gut* or with topics of general professional interest are welcomed. Authors should include the names and addresses of four experts whom the authors consider suitable to peer review their work.

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**ETHICS** Ethical aspects will be considered in the assessment of papers (see the Medical Research Council's publications on the ethics of human experimentation, and the World Medical Association's code of ethics, known as the Declaration of Helsinki (see *BMJ* 1964; ii: 177)).

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1977). NB: Such conversion is the responsibility of the author.

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