Notes and activities

Research Grants in Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Applications for the National Foundation for Ileitis and Colitis contract research grants, Career Development Awards, and Senior Fellow Awards are now being accepted from investigators in the field of inflammatory bowel disease. Applications must be received by 8 April 1977; applicants will be notified by 30 June 1977.

The Foundation's contract research grants are directed toward elucidating the nature, aetiology, and treatment of inflammatory bowel disease, and can be either basic or clinical. Previous grants have ranged from \$10,000 to \$25,000 per year for one or two years' duration.

The Career Development Award is open to young investigators with five to 10 years of relevant post-doctoral experience. The award provides up to \$25,000 per year for three years and may be renewed after review.

The Senior Fellow Award is open to investigators with two years of relevant post-doctoral experience, providing \$16,000 a year for one or two years, subject to review.

Inquiries and applications should be submitted to Irwin Brod, Executive Director, National Foundation for Ileitis and Colitis, 295 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017, USA.

Experimental Approaches to the Treatment of Gastrointestinal Tumours

This symposium, organised by the EORTC Gastrointestinal Tract Cancer Cooperative Group, will be held in Brussels on 14-15 April 1977.

Topics for discussion will be (1) Experimental models in GI tract oncology, excluding hepatoma, (2) precancerous states of the GI tract, (3) clinical trials in CI tract cancers. Details from Dr M. Staquet, EORTC Data Center, Institut Jules Bordet, rue Héger-Bordet, 1, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium.

Royal College of Pathologists

A symposium on endoscopic biopsy and cytology will be held on 16 June 1977 at the Royal College of Pathologists, under the chairmanship of Dr B. C. Morson. Details from Assistant Secretary (Meetings), at the College, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF.

Royal College of Pathologists

A symposium on the microbiology of the gastrointestinal tract in health and disease will be held on 15 July 1977 at the Biochemistry Lecture Theatre, Edinburgh Medical School, Teviot Place, Edinburgh. Details may be obtained from Assistant Secretary (Meetings), The Royal College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF.

British Society for Digestive Endoscopy

A course open to all those interested in digestive endoscopy, including nurse/technician endoscopy assistants, will be held 21-22 April 1977, London. There will be small group teaching plus live TV demonstrations. Apply Dr M. E. Denyer, Gastrointestinal Unit, The Middlesex Hospital, London W1N 8AA.

Royal Postgraduate Medical School: Progress in Haematology

A course including the following topics: anaemias, haemorrhagic disorders and thrombosis, leukaemia, and lymphoma will be held 23-27 May 1977, London. Course organiser: Professor Sir John Dacie. Fee £45. Apply Deputy Secretary's Office (SSC), Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, Du Cane Road, London W12 OHS (telephone 01-743 2030, ext 351).

Royal Free Hospital—Hepatic Update

This course, organised by the Department of Medicine, 23-25 June 1977, London, will include: bilirubin metabolism, gallstones, cholangiography, drug toxicity, acute and chronic hepatitis, portal hypertension, case discussions, and liver biopsy interpretations. Speakers include: H. O. Conn, V. Desmet, H. Dowling, G. A. Martini, F. Schaffner, E. Schiff, A. J. Zuckermann, and staff of the Royal Free Hospital. Fee £40. Apply Professor Sheila Sherlock, Department of Medicine, Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, London NW3 2QG.

International Symposium: Gut Hormones

To mark the 75th anniversary of the discovery of the first 'hormone' by Bayliss and Starling, an international symposium sponsored by the Widmar Foundation will be held at Lausanne, Switzerland, on 18 and 19 June 1977. Details may be obtained from Dr S. R. Bloom, Department of Medicine, Hammersmith Hospital, Du Cane Road, London W12 OHS, UK.

Books

Fiber in Human Nutrition Edited by Gene A. Spiller and Ronald J. Amen. (\$29.40). Plenum: New York.

There have been a number of publications, particularly from clinicians, incriminating fibre deficiency as an important causal factor for a number of diseases, but hitherto there has been no publication primarily devoted to the subject of plant fibres. This important publication brings together present-day scientific knowledge and will be widely welcomed. Indeed, it provides a complete reference on the subject of plant fibre ingestion and its effects of human health. It includes the studies on fibre in experimental animal diets, present methodologies for the analysis of fibre, the effect of fibre on serum lipids, on colonic function, on colonic bacterial activity, and all the important clinical and epidemiological studies are recorded. The thirteen contributors include the top medical scientists working in this field in Great Britain, in the United States, and in South Africa.

F. AVERY JONES

Endocrine Gut and Pancreas Edited by Tsuneo Fujita. (Pp. 411, illustrated, Dfl. 135.00, US \$51.95.) Elsevier: Amsterdam & New York. 1976.

This elegant book contains the 35 papers presented at an international symposium on the gastroenteropancreatic endocrine system in Japan in 1975. All report original work and the main emphasis is on normal cytology, electronmicroscopy, cytochemistry, and immunocytochemistry. Most of the established workers in this field and some newcomers are included. There is less emphasis on function and pathology, but there are interesting papers on the reception of luminal stimuli and on endocrine secretory mechanisms.

The book has been published very fast, and the quality of the paper, printing, and illustrations (including many electron-micrographs and a few colour photographs of immunofluorescent reactions), and the general standard of production are of a very high order.

All workers in the rapidly-developing field of gut endocrinology should have access to this book, which (at \$51.95) is not expensive by present standards.

R. B. WELBOURN