Notes and activities

BSG Research Award 1981
A three page summary of personal research work is invited by the Research Committee who will recommend to Council the recipient of the award for 1981. A bibliography may also be submitted if desired. The award consists of a medal and £100 prize. Entrants must be 40 years or less (on 31 December 1981) but need not be a member of the BSG. All (or a substantial part) of the work must have been performed in the UK or Eire. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Plenary Session of the Spring meeting in 1982. Applications (six copies) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, The Rayne Institute, 5 University Street, London WC1E 6JJ, by 1 November 1981.

Hopkins Endoscopy Prize
The Hopkins Endoscopy Prize will be awarded annually at the Spring Meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology on the recommendation of the Endoscopy Committee. The prize will consist of a cheque and a permanent memento. The prize will be awarded for the best essay on a technical innovation in the field of endoscopy, or a new method using existing endoscopic equipment. Entries for the 1982 prize are invited, and should be submitted to the Secretary of the Endoscopy Committee, BSG Secretariat, The Rayne Institute, 5 University Street, London WC1N 6JJ, before 1 January 1982.

Immunocytochemistry Today
This comprehensive course in the theory and practice of modern immunocytochemistry will be held from 25 January–5 February 1982. Organised by Julia M Polak, it costs £135 and application forms are obtainable from School Office (SSC), Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Du Cane Road, London W12 0HS. (Tel 01-743 2030, ext 351.) The closing date for applications is 20 November 1981.

XV Argentine Gastroenterology Congress
This congress will be held, simultaneously with the VI Argentine Digestive Endoscopy Congress (SAED), 11–16 October 1981, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Details may be obtained from The Secretary: Sarmiento 1562-4° ‘E’, 1042, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Koster Prize
Karl Henrik Koster (1909–70) is commemorated in Denmark by the periodic award of the Koster Prize. Dr J H Baron received this prize in Odense on 21 August 1981 when he delivered the Koster Lecture at the XV meeting of the Nordic Societies of Gastroenterology.

Books

The Large Intestine. Its Role in Mammalian Nutrition and Homeostasis
By O M Wrong, C J Edmonds, and V S Chadwick. (Pp 217. Illustrated. £16.65.) MTP Press: Lancaster. 1981. Despite the fact that gastroenterologists spend more time treating colonic disorders than those of any other part of the gut, understanding of large bowel function has never been equal to these clinical needs. Now, however, Professor Wrong and Doctors Edmonds and Chadwick have written, in a sympathetic and lucid style, an excellent monograph in which they set down both their own wide knowledge of colonic function and that which they have culled from all corners of the animal kingdom. The book deals almost exclusively with physiology of the normal large bowel, emphasising its metabolic and nutritional roles. There are excellent chapters on electrolyte transport and on the permeability and electrical properties of the colonic epithelium. These pages include a masterly guide through the theories of transport across the mucosa, potential difference, emf, pore size, reflection coefficients, and other concepts in this subspecialty. Anyone wanting to start work in this field could do no better than start here. Equally good is the chapter on nitrogen metabolism, which, like the one on electrolyte transport, is of special interest to one of the authors. This chapter deals most comprehensively with the topic and highlights current problems in understanding such as the site of urea hydrolysis and the origin of colonic ammonia.

The authors have been very selective in the subjects they have chosen for discussion, probably because the book started out as a review. There is little immunology, or about carcinogenesis, fibre, motility, or hormones, and only scant cover of colonic gas and the microbiology of the bowel. There are also sections that might be confusing to reading to those not devoted to this organ. For example, the apparently interchangeable use of the terms organic anion and short chain fatty acids; the rapid switching between what is known in relation to man compared with that in animals, and, in the chapter on the microbial flora, of the scant attention paid to the problems of methodology. These, and a few minor points and should not detract from the overall high standard of thought and writing. This is the only book of its kind and fills an important gap in the library of those interested in the gut. It deserves to be very widely read.

J H CUMMINGS

Books received

How to Prevent Cancer of Stomach and Colon By Patrick Störtebecker. (Pp 72; illustrated; SwCr 40, or $10.) Störtebecker Foundation for Research: Stockholm. 1981.

Obesity: Pathogenesis and Treatment

Surgical Management of Obesity

UIUC Technical Report Series Vol 57

Peritoneal Dialysis

Hydrogen Ion Transport in Epithelia