

Gut

*Journal of the British Society of Gastroenterology which
is a registered charity*

Editor: R N Allan

Technical Editor: Jackie Foulds

Review Editor: I Forgacs

Editorial Assistant: Michelle Dimler

EDITORIAL BOARD

M J P Arthur

T G Cooke

D Rampton

R G Newcombe

D C C Bartolo

C A Hart

P J Shorvon

(Statistical adviser)

I S Benjamin

C J Hawkey

D Swallow

Editor

P Bland

S G Hubscher

D G Thompson

British Medical Journal

J Calam

J Neuberger

B J R Whittle

D C A Candy

H O'Connor

R Chapman

P Quirke

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

B S Anand (USA)

D Y Graham (USA)

R Modigliani (France)

C Arvanitakis (Greece)

J Hansky (Australia)

T Muto (Japan)

G P van Berge Henegouwen
(Netherlands)

J Heathcote (Canada)

G Paumgartner (Germany)

G Bianchi-Porro (Italy)

R H Hunt (Canada)

E W Pomare (New Zealand)

A L Blum (Switzerland)

J R Jass (New Zealand)

D Rachmilewitz (Israel)

M van Blankenstein

S-J Jiang (China)

J Rask-Madsen (Denmark)

(Netherlands)

S J Konturek (Poland)

E Rene (France)

J P Delmont (France)

S K Lam (Hong Kong)

A Torsoli (Italy)

J Dent (Australia)

M M Levine (USA)

J-R Malagelada (Spain)

So, I conclude that the aspects of aetiology and pathogenesis that will probably make the most impact on future prevention and management of pancreatic disease are sadly lacking from this book, which its editors describe as an 'up to the minute' treatise. It is a pity that this second edition was not produced in two volumes so that scientists could separately invest in the volume on pancreatic biology, 'radically' updating it through personal research. Clinical pancreatologists will not lose out if they do not have ready access to this second edition: there are less unwieldy but equally informative smaller textbooks around.

J M BRAGANZA

The Liver in Systemic Disease. Edited by V K Rustgi and D H Van Thiel. (Pp 383; illustrated; £76.25.) New York: Raven Press, 1993.

The title of this book suggests that it contains accounts of the hepatic manifestations of diseases affecting other systems. This expectation is met only in part. Of the 15 chapters, eight clearly match the title – they cover cardiac and collagen-vascular diseases, endocrine and coagulation disorders, inflammatory bowel disease, AIDS, bone marrow transplantation, and generalised metabolic diseases that affect the liver. The liver problems associated with anaesthesia/surgery, aging, and pregnancy might also be considered appropriate topics, although none are really systemic diseases. I was surprised to find chapters on alcoholic liver disease, Wilson's disease and haemochromatosis, and on parasitic infections for which the liver is the main site of attack.

Missing from this book are the liver problems associated with haematological and lymphatic disorders, gastrointestinal diseases other than inflammatory bowel disease, skin diseases, and renal disease (the kidney is not even covered in the chapter on transplantation despite the problems of chronic hepatitis after renal transplantation). It might also have been useful to have included a chapter on the hepatic consequences of bacterial infections, and on the effects of drugs used in treating diseases of other systems.

The chapter on cardiac disease deals mainly with acute and chronic heart failure and so constructive pericarditis gets a fleeting mention, yet it can be mistaken for cirrhosis. Kowdley and Kaplan give a comprehensive account of liver damage in collagen-vascular diseases, but neglect drug hepatotoxicity, which must be the commonest cause of liver

damage in patients with these conditions. Drug hepatotoxicity is covered, however, in Kastenber and Friedman's excellent account with 322 references of the hepatobiliary complications of inflammatory bowel disease.

The liver in endocrine disorders is one of the better chapters. It sticks closely to the original concept of the book, probably because it was written by one of the editors. There are sections on the liver dysfunction seen with thyroid and adrenal disease, diabetes mellitus and obesity, and the administration of sex hormones. Several other chapters are less clearly focused. The section on coagulation disorders ignores hepatic and portal venous thrombosis resulting from hypercoagulable states while the contribution on anaesthesia and surgery deals mainly with problems associated with pre-existing liver disease; and, like the section on liver transplantation, does not seem to match the original purpose of the book.

This is a very expensive book. In their preface the editors claim to have produced it because they 'know of no single source that covers the liver in systemic disease.' There is little in this volume, however, which is not covered more fully in the important reference works on hepatology.

N MCINTYRE

Colonic Drug Absorption and Metabolism (Drugs and the pharmaceutical science series/60) by P R Bieck. (Pp 240; illustrated; \$110.00.) New York: Marcel Dekker, 1993.

Gastroenterologists are familiar with the mechanisms by which orally administered sulphasalazine and its derivatives release 5-aminosalicylic acid in the colon in patients with inflammatory bowel disease. I hope I am not alone in having been ignorant, before reading this short book, of the far wider potential applications of new pharmaceutical systems for delivering drugs orally to the large intestine. Within gastroenterology, these include not only inflammatory bowel disease but also irritable bowel syndrome, constipation, and even cancer of the colon. In a broader and conceptually even more interesting context, oral colonic formulations provide a possible means for achieving systemic absorption of therapeutic peptides and proteins, most of which at present have to be given by injection.

In chapters written by both pharmaceutical scientists and clinicians, this attractively produced book deals, successively, with colonic physiology and drug metabolism; methods of studying colonic drug transit and absorption in

vitro and in vivo; new formulations activated in the colon by bacterial enzymes, luminal pH changes and osmotic mechanisms; the influence of intestinal disease on drug absorption; and adverse effects of drugs in the colon. The chapters are concise, easy to read, well illustrated, and overlap only a little with each other. Irritatingly, the references after each chapter do not include their titles. Although expensive, I imagine this book is unique in its coverage. It is of interest not only to pharmacologists and pharmaceutical scientists, but also to gastroenterologists interested in new ways of targeting treatment to diseases affecting the colon.

D S RAMPTON

If you wish to order or require further information regarding the titles reviewed here, please write to or telephone the BMJ Bookshop, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9JR. Tel: 071 383 6244. Fax: 071 383 6662. Books are supplied post free in the UK and for BFPO addresses. Overseas customers should add 15% for postage and packing. Payment can be made by cheque in sterling drawn on a UK bank or by credit card (Mastercard, Visa, or American Express), stating card number, expiry date, and full name. (The price and availability are occasionally subject to revision by the Publishers.)

NOTES

Colorectal cancer

An international congress on *Colorectal Cancer: from Gene to Cure*, will be held in Amsterdam on 9–11 February 1995. Further information from: R F M van Bokhoven, MA, Head Educational Department IKA, Plesmanlaan 125, 1066 CX Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel: 31 20 6172903; fax: 31 20 6155904.

Falk Symposia

Details of the Falk Symposia to be held in 1994–5 can be obtained from: K Trommer, Falk Foundation e V, Leinenweberstraße 5, Postfach 6529, D-79041 Freiburg, Germany. Tel: 0761 1303460; fax: 0761 1303459.

Gut

Journal of the British Society of Gastroenterology
which is a registered charity

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.

COMMUNICATIONS Two copies of the manuscript and figures should be addressed to the Editor, *Gut*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR, UK. Manuscripts should follow the Vancouver conventions (see *BMJ* 1979; i: 532-5. *Gut* 1979; 20: 651-2). They should be in double spaced typewriting on one side of the paper only. The title page should include the name of the author with initials or distinguishing first name only, and the name and address of the hospital or laboratory where the work was performed. The paper must include a precise summary of the work of less than 200 words. Use of abbreviation is discouraged. Short rapid communications should not be more than 10 double spaced A4 pages including references, tables, and figures. These papers will be subject to peer review in the normal way. The interval from acceptance to publication will be much shorter. A covering letter should include a request for the paper to be considered in this category with valid reasons for that request. A separate covering letter signed by all authors must state that the data have not been published elsewhere in whole or in part and that all authors agree to publication in *Gut*. Previous publication in abstract form must be disclosed in a footnote. Papers must not be published elsewhere without prior permission of the Editorial Committee. If requested, authors shall produce the data upon which the manuscript is based for examination by the editor.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS Manuscripts will only be acknowledged if an addressed postcard is enclosed.

ILLUSTRATIONS *Photographs* Unmounted photographs on glossy paper should be provided. Illustrations should not be inserted in the text but marked on the back with the figure numbers, title of paper and name of author. All photographs, graphs, diagrams should be referred to as figures and should be numbered consecutively in the text in Arabic numerals. The legends for illustrations should be typed on a separate sheet.

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)).

SI UNITS All measurements except blood pressure are expressed in SI units. In tables and illustrations values are given in SI units. For general guidance on the International System of Units and some useful conversion

factors, see *The SI for Health Professions* (WHO, 1977). **NB: Such conversion is the responsibility of the author.**

REFERENCES These follow the Vancouver system - that is, references numbered consecutively in the text and listed numerically with journal titles abbreviated in the style of *Index Medicus*, *Standard journal article*. List up to six authors, then add *et al.*

CORRECTIONS other than printers' errors may be charged to the author.

REPRINTS Reprints will be available on payment of the necessary costs; the number of reprints required should be sent to the Publishing Manager on the form provided with the proof.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS All applications for advertisement space and rates should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager, *Gut*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS *Gut* is published monthly. The annual subscription rates are £177.00 (USA \$309.00). Reduced subscriptions of £74.00 available to trainees for one year (direct only). Orders should be sent to the Subscription Manager, *Gut*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Orders can also be placed with any leading subscription agent or bookseller. (For the convenience of readers in the USA subscription orders, with or without payment, can be sent to: *British Medical Journal*, Box 560B, Kennebunkport, Maine 04046. All enquiries, however, must be addressed to the Publisher in London.) Subscribers may pay for their subscriptions by Access, Visa, or American Express by quoting on their order the credit or charge card preferred together with the appropriate personal account number and the expiry date of the card. All overseas copies of the journal are sent by accelerated surface post. If required, full air mail rates and enquiries for single copies already published should be addressed to the Publisher in London.

COPYRIGHT © 1994 *Gut*. This publication is copyright under the Berne Convention and the International Copyright Convention. All rights reserved. Apart from any relaxations permitted under national copyright laws, no part of the publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior permission of the copyright owners. Permission is not, however, required to copy abstracts of papers or articles on condition that a full reference to the source is shown. Multiple copying of the contents of the publication without permission is always illegal.

Second class postage paid, Rahway NJ. Postmaster: send address changes to: *Gut*, c/o Mercury Airfreight International Ltd Inc, 2323 Randolph Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001, USA. ISSN 0017-5749.

Published by British
Medical Association,
Tavistock Square, London
WC1H 9JR.
Typeset by
Bedford Typesetters Ltd
Printed by
Stott Brothers Ltd,
Halifax