

Gut

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

Editor: R N Allan

Technical Editor: Jackie Foulds

Review Editor: Ian Forgacs

Editorial Assistant: Michelle Dimler

EDITORIAL BOARD

D Adams

C A Hart

D Rampton

R G Newcombe
(Statistical adviser)

M J P Arthur

C J Hawkey

P J Shorvon

I S Benjamin

S G Hubscher

D Swallow

Editor
British Medical Journal

P Bland

D Kumar

D G Thompson

I W Booth

M McMahon

B J R Whittle

R Chapman

H O'Connor

G J Dockray

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)

D Rachmilewitz (Israel)

A L Blum (Switzerland)

J R Jass (New Zealand)

J Rask-Madsen (Denmark)

M van Blankenstein
(Netherlands)

S-J Jiang (China)

E Rene (France)

J P Delmont (France)

S J Konturek (Poland)

A Torsoli (Italy)

J Dent (Australia)

S K Lam (Hong Kong)

M M Levine (USA)

J-R Malagelada (Spain)

BOOK REVIEWS

Medical Radiology. Diagnostic Imaging and Radiation Oncology. Radiology of the Pancreas. By A L Baert. (Pp 281; illustrated; DM 348.00). Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 1994. ISBN 3-540-56514-0.

This book is one of an acclaimed series *Medical Radiology - Diagnostic Imaging and Radiation Oncology* and maintains a high standard. As mentioned in the preface, the previous monograph on radiology in this series was over 25 years ago and clearly there has been a revolution in radiology of the pancreas since then. The book has a number of major strengths. Firstly, it is exceedingly well illustrated with high quality reproductions of state of the art imaging. Secondly, the book covers in detail the embryology, physiology, and pathology of pancreatic disease, which are essential to the full understanding of radiological images. Finally, each chapter is very well referenced, which will act as a very good resource for further study.

While in most of the book the translation from the original French is good, there are parts of the book where this is not the case. The book also suffers greatly from being a multi-author text (there are 36 contributors for 14 chapters) and the integration of the sections by different authors is sometimes poor. The text is at times repetitive (for instance, some cystic tumours are described in detail in two different chapters - chapter 9 on cystic tumours of the pancreas and chapter 11 on rare and secondary tumours of the pancreas). In other places the text is contradictory, for instance, we are told on page 4 that annular pancreas usually manifests late in life, on page 29 that annular pancreas is rare and is usually seen in children, and on page 38 the book informs us that half of the cases present in the neonatal period and half in adulthood.

Because of the multiplicity of authors, a balanced overview of imaging is not given to guide the clinician through the confusing array of methods available and some of the statements in the book would not get general acceptance (such as 'endoscopic ultrasound is the technique of choice for diagnosing choledocholithiasis in acute pancreatitis' and pancreatitis and cholangitis are contra-indications to ERCP).

Although in general the book is well illustrated, there are areas of omission, such as the lack of any illustration of endoscopic ultrasound for the localisation of endocrine tumours.

A book such as this will usually be used as a reference text, however, it failed me rather in this when I tried to use it for this purpose. There was no discussion in the text on groove pancreatitis and insufficient detail for it to be helpful in a difficult interventional case.

In conclusion, the book states in its preface that it attempts to outline the most efficient approach for diagnostic imaging of different clinical situations. I believe it largely fails in this and falls between a book predominantly of interest to radiologists and to clinicians. It is well illustrated, multi-disciplinary, and well referenced, but at its price I do not believe it can be generally recommended.

P J SHORVON

Molecular and Cell Biological Aspects of Gastroenteropancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumor Disease. Edited by B Wiedenmann, L K Kvols, R Arnold, E-O Riecken. (Pp 535; illustrated; \$145.00.) New York: New York Academy of Sciences, 1994. ISBN 0-89766-89709.

It is now a little over 20 years since Palade received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work in elucidating the pathway by which proteins are secreted by cells. He defined how proteins destined for secretion pass from the endoplasmic reticulum, through the Golgi complex and to the cell surface by way of a series of vesicle fission and fusion cycles. At that time the molecular machinery that might constitute the secretory pathway was unknown, understanding of the cell physiological mechanisms that might account for stimulated exocytosis was vague, and it was not at all clear how the pathway for secretion of proteins was related to that for small neurotransmitters at nerve terminals. The progress that has been made in recent years in dealing with these issues has been impressive. It is now recognised that there is a remarkable conservation of the molecular mechanisms accounting for vesicle budding and fusion events in cells as diverse as yeast, mammalian exocrine cells, and brain neurons; at the same time substantial progress has been made in elucidating the principles of stimulus-secretion coupling. However, while the gastrointestinal tract and its appendages represent one of the most striking concentrations of secretory cells in the body, the implications for clinical gastroenterology of much of the recent work in secretory cell biology remains unexplored. The rather rare neuroendocrine tumours of the gut and pancreas provide a special case in which it is already possible to see how this imbalance might be redressed. This volume represents the proceedings of a conference held in Berlin in November 1993, which dealt with recent progress in neuroendocrine cell biology in general, and with the significance of this for the diagnosis and treatment of neuroendocrine tumours of the gut and pancreas in particular.

The 53 chapters of this book are grouped in 10 sections: of these four are mainly or solely concerned with the cellular and molecular biology of secretory cells and have little or no clinical content (*Transporters, Proton pumps, Exocytotic and endocytotic processes, and Signal transduction*); four sections cover both basic and clinical issues (*Neuroendocrine pathology, Cellular differentiation and growth, Receptors and neuroendocrine tumour disease, and Model systems in neuroendocrine tumour disease*), and two are clearly focused on clinical topics (*Implications for improved diagnosis, and Possible new therapeutic concepts*). A sprinkling of chapters are only tangentially related to the main theme, but all the main sections contain contributions by leading international workers that should provide profitable reading for both basic scientists and clinicians. Inevitably, the proceedings of conferences in fast moving fields quickly lose a sense of immediacy. Even so, this volume has a sufficiently strong review element to ensure that, for example, clinical practitioners who are interested to know where the basic science in this field is going, will be able to obtain an accurate impression. As such, it will provide a valuable starting point for a consideration of the opportunities now emerging for clinical research not just on neuroendocrine tumours, but also more

generally on other gastrointestinal secretory functions and dysfunctions.

G J DOCKRAY

NOTES

Health Care

The First European Forum of Quality Improvement in Health Care will be held in London on 7-9 March 1996. For more information contact: Clare Moloney, BMA Conference Unit, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP. Fax: 0171 383 6663; Tel: 0171 383 6478.

General surgery

The Postgraduate Course in General Surgery will be held on 25-27 April 1996 in San Francisco, California, USA. Further information from: University of California, Office of Continuing Medical Education, 1855 Folsom St, MCB Room 630, San Francisco, CA 94143-0742, USA. Tel: 415 476-4251; Fax: 415 476-0318.

Ammonia

The Ninth International Symposium on Ammonia will be held on 4-6 May 1996 in Newcastle upon Tyne. Further information from: Dr Hanan Al Mardini, Liver Unit, Department of Medicine, Medical School, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4HH.

European Pancreatic Club

The first combined meeting of the European Pancreatic Club and the International Association of Pancreatology will take place on 12-15 June 1996 in Mannheim (University of Heidelberg), Germany. Further information from: Dr M V Singer, Department of Medicine IV, University Hospital of Heidelberg at Mannheim, D-68135 Mannheim, Germany. Tel: +49-621-383-3359; Fax: +49-621-383-3805.

Sir Francis Avery Jones BSG Research Award 1996

Applications are invited by the Education Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology who will recommend to Council the recipient of the 1996 Award. Applications (**eighteen copies**) should include:

- (1) A manuscript (2 A4 pages *only*) describing the work conducted.
- (2) A bibliography of relevant personal publications.
- (3) An outline of the proposed content of the lecture, including title.
- (4) A written statement confirming that all or a substantial part of the work has been personally conducted in the UK or Eire.

Entrants must be 40 years or less on 31 December 1996 but need not be a member of the BSG. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Spring meeting of the Society in 1996. Applications (**eighteen copies**) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, 3 St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LB by 1 December 1995.

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 (tel: 0171 383 6157; fax: 0171 383 6668). 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, which should be divided into six sections headed background, aims, patients (or subjects), methods, results, and conclusions. Keywords (maximum six) should be included.** 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 £191.00 (USA \$309.00). Reduced subscriptions of £79.00 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*, PO Box 408, Franklin, MA 02038, USA. 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 © 1995 *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.