antigen processing, epithelial cells, T cells, inflammation, infection, and vaccines, and they are all good and up to date. I would advise all those interested in mucosal immunology to buy this book. It is reasonably priced, an excellent source of information for experts and a good introduction for those trying to get into the field.

T T MacDONALD


An old cliché states that if you give a man a fish you feed him for a day, but if you teach a man to fish you feed him for life. Unfortunately, Lee Hancock's book provides a helping of Internet fish, rather than help how to fish on the Internet. Apart from a cursory 21 page introduction to the Internet, the book is merely a list of addresses of medical resources on the Internet, with the minimum of description or evaluation. Furthermore, the book is entirely American in outlook and focus, with little to entice the European reader. Such an attempt to capture a list of medical Internet resources in book format is bound to fail. Sites appear, disappear or change their addresses frighteningly quickly. On the Internet, what is true today is only half-true tomorrow and is wrong the day after that.

To appreciate the futility of such a book you need only look at its listing for gastroenterology – just two sites are listed, the Columbia university gastroenterology Web site (http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dep/gi/) and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney disease site (http://www.niddk.nih.gov/), together with three electronic mailing lists. Had Hancock taken the trouble to explain to the reader how to search on the Internet, a much richer feast would have been forthcoming. A quick search of the WWW with the Lycos search engine (http://www.lycos.com/customsearch.html) using the search term "gastroenterology" finds almost 2000 hits in less than a minute. A more focused search with the search term "giardia" yields over 500 hits, including advice and information for the general public on giardiasis, descriptions of book on the parasite, images, discussion of its place in evolution, and information on diagnostic kits. A search of the OMNI database (http://www.omni.ac.uk) turns up five gastroenterology sites and four sites covering giardia. Its US counterparts, the Medical Matrix (http://www1.slackinc.com/SPECIALT/GASTROEN. html) and Medweb (http://www.gen.emory.edu/ medweb/medweb.gastroenterology.html), both list dozens of sites in their sections on gastroenterology, covering almost every aspect of the specialty.

So, where should the reader turn for help on getting started on the Internet? If you want an introductory text, a much better choice is Medical Information on the Internet by Robert Kiley (ISBN 0 443 05699 4) which not only explains how to search on the Internet, but also comes with an accompanying interactive website (http://www.churchillliving.com/ BOOKS/medinter.html) and free CD-ROM. If you are already on-line, but still a newcomer to the Net, try the Netlinks site's Newbie Help Link (http://www.netlinks.net/Netlinks/ NEWBIE.HTML); using the sites listed there, you will quickly learn how to fish and to surf the Internet's rich oceans of medical knowledge.

MARK PALLEN

NOTES

Laparoscopic Surgery

The European Course on Laparoscopic Surgery will be held at University Hospital Saint-Pierre (U.L.B.), Brussels, Belgium, on 13–16 May 1997 (French) and again on 18–21 November 1997 (English). Further information from: Administrative Secretariat, Conference Services s.a., Avenue de l’Observatoire, 3 bte 17, B-1180 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: +32 2 375 16 48; Fax: +32 2 375 32 99.

Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism

The 19th ESPEN Congress on Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism will be held at the RAI Congress Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on 31 August–3 September 1997. Further information from: Van Namen & Westerlaken Congress Organisation Services, PO Box 1358, 6501 BN Nijmegen, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 24 323 4471; Fax: +31 24 360 1159.

Cochrane Collaboration

The Third Annual Meeting for UK contributors to the Cochrane Collection will be held at St Catherine's College, Oxford, UK, on 11–12 April 1997. Further information from: Sally Hunt, UK Cochrane Centre, Summer-town Pavillion, Middle Way, Oxford OX2 7LG. Tel: 01865 516300; Fax: 01865 516 311; E-mail: shunt@cochrane.co.uk.

Ultrasound in Medicine

The 41st Annual Convention of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) will be held in San Diego, California, USA, on 23–26 March 1997. Further information from: The AIUM Convention Department, 14750 Sweitzer Lane, Suite 100, Laurel, MD 20770-5906, USA. Tel: 301 498 4100; Fax: 301 498 4450.

Digestive Endoscopy, Ultrasonography and Radiology

The Seventh International Workshop on Digestive Endoscopy, Ultrasonography and Radiology will be held in Marseille, France, on 29–30 May 1997. Further information from: Nathalie Fontant, Atelier Phenix, 41 Rue Docteur Morucci, 13006 Marseille, France. Tel: +33 4 91 37 50 83; Fax: +33 4 91 57 15 28.

Nutrition and HIV Infection

The Second International Conference on Nutrition and HIV Infection will be held at the Palais des Festivals, Cannes, France, on 23–25 April 1997. Further information from: Cannes 95/LSO International, 23–25 Bd Général Vautrin, 06400 Cannes, France. Tel: +33 4 92 18 85 85; Fax: +33 4 93 43 40 02.

Photodynamics

The Seventh Biennial Congress of the International Photodynamic Association will be held in Nantes, France, on 7–9 July 1998. Further information from: Professor T Patrice, Laser Department, Neurosurgery, Laennec Hospital, BP 1005, 44035 Nantes cedex, France. Tel: +33 2 40 16 56 75; Fax: +33 2 40 16 59 35.

Digestive Endoscopy

A Course in Digestive Endoscopy will be held at the Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on 4–5 September 1997. Further information from: Helma Stockmann, Managing Director, European Postgraduate Gastro-Surgical School, G-4-ziud, Academic Medical Centre, Meibergdreef 9, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 20 566 3926; Fax: +31 20 691 4858.

Motility Disorders

The International Congress on Motility Disorders of the Upper Gastrointestinal Tract: From Basic Science to Therapy will be held at the Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on 25–26 September 1997. Further information from: Helma Stockmann, Managing Director, European Postgraduate Gastro-Surgical School, G-4-ziud, Academic Medical Centre, Meibergdreef 9, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 20 566 3926; Fax: +31 20 691 4858.

Gastric Malignancies

The International Congress on Gastric Malignancies will be held at the Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on 13–14 November 1997. Further information from: Helma Stockmann, Managing Director, European Postgraduate Gastro-Surgical School, G-4-ziud, Academic Medical Centre, Meibergdreef 9, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 20 566 3926; Fax: +31 20 691 4858.

Immunopathology of Mucous Membranes and Exocrine Glands

An International Conference on Immunopathology of Mucous Membranes and Exocrine Glands will be held in Bergen, Norway, this October.