

Gut

*Journal of the British Society of Gastroenterology
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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

Physician's Guide to the Internet. Hancock L. (Pp 212; illustrated; \$29.95.) Philadelphia: Lippincott-Raven. 1996. ISBN 0-397-51634-7.

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 one need only look at its listing for gastroenterology – just two sites are listed, the Columbia university gastroenterology Web site (<http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/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 website (<http://www.churchillmed.com/BOOKS/medinter.html>) and free CD-ROM. If you are already on-line, but still a newcomer to the Net, explore 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 1558, 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 20707-5906, 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-zuid, 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-zuid, 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-zuid, 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,

on 13–16 May 1997. Further information from: International Conference on Immunopathology of Mucous Membranes and Exocrine Glands (IMMEG), c/o PLUS Convention Norway, PO Box 946, N-5001 Bergen, Norway. Tel: +47 55 30 30 40; Fax: +47 55 30 30 32.

Quality Improvement in Health Care

The Second European Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care will be held in Paris, France, on 24–26 April 1997. Further information from: BMA, Conference Unit, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9JR. Tel: +44 171 383 6478; Fax: +44 171 383 6869.

Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and Minimally Invasive Surgery

The IV International Symposium on Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and Minimally Invasive Surgery will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 17–18 April 1997. Further information from: David S Cantor, MD, 50 Alessandro Place, Suite 410, Pasadena, CA 91105, USA. Tel: 818 793 7114; Fax: 818 793 7679; E-mail: dacho@primenet.com.

American Board of Internal Medicine

1997 Certification Examination in Gastroenterology

Registration period: 1 Jan–1 April 1997; Examination date: 19 November 1997.

Important Note: Beginning in 1997 the Board will offer all its Subspecialty Certification Examinations annually in November.

1997 ABIM Recertification Examinations in Internal Medicine, its Subspecialties and Added Qualifications

Registration period: ongoing and continuous since 1 July 1995; Final examination date: 19 November 1997.

The Board's new comprehensive Recertification Programme consists of an at-home, open book Self-Evaluation Process (SEP) and a proctored Final Examination which will be administered annually in November. To be eligible to apply for the November Final Examination, Diplomates must return all their required at-home open book SEP modules to the Board office by 1 August 1997 and must submit their Recertification Final Examination application by 1 September 1997.

1997 Certification Examination for Added Qualifications in Adolescent Medicine

Registration period: 1 January–1 April 1997; Examination date: 18 November 1997.

Further information from: Registration Section, American Board of Internal Medicine, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2675, USA. Tel: 800 441 2246 or 215 243 1500; Fax: 215 243 1590; E-mail: request@abim.org.

Italian Association of Pancreatology

The XXI National Congress of the Italian Association for the Study of the Pancreas will be held in Milano Marittima (Ravenna), Italy, on 19–20 September 1997. Further information from: Dr P L Costa, Divisione di Medicina Interna, Ospedale Civile, I-14034 Forlimpopoli (Forlì), Italy. Tel: +39 543 733 211; Fax: +39 543 733 323.

Therapeutic endoscopy

The XVth European Workshop on Gastroenterology and Endotherapy will be held on 17–19 June 1997 in Brussels. Further information from Administrative Secretariat, Conference Services sa, Avenue de l'Observatoire, 3, box 17, B-1180 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: (32) 2 375 16 48; fax: (32) 2 375 32 99.

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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 Three 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 6787 Email: 101317.465@compuserve.com). 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. 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 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.

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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*.

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