Bacterial Endotoxins. Structure, Biomedical Significance, and Detection with the Limulus Amebocyte Lysate Test. Progress in Clinical and Biological Research. Vol 189. Ed JW ten Cate, HR Büller, A Sturk, J Levin. (Pp 466; £52.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1985.

There has been a recent upsurge of interest in bacterial endotoxin ranging from the development of immunotherapy of Gram negative bacterial infections to the monitoring and management of patients at risk from endotoxaemia. A prerequisite for the study of endotoxin is a sensitive and reliable test for its standardisation. It is now more than twenty years since it was recognised that endotoxin causes the gelation of limulus amoebocyte lysate (LAL). The LAL test has become an accepted system for the detection and quantitation of endotoxin in a wide range of clinical and pharmaceutical applications.

This book is the proceedings of an international conference held in Amsterdam in May 1984 on endotoxin assays. Current concepts of the structure and biological activity of endotoxin and methods for its assay are reviewed. The variety of type faces used for the individual contributions gives the text a non-uniform appearance that detracts from the otherwise high standard of presentation of many of the contributions.

The book is divided into four sections: biochemistry and biology of endotoxins and limulus amoebocyte lysate; detection of endotoxins with limulus amoebocyte lysate; use of limulus amoebocyte lysate for quality assurance; and clinical applications of limulus amoebocyte lysate. Each section consists of six to eight articles by leading workers in the field. A short edited transcript of the discussion that took place at the meeting is a useful inclusion at the end of most of the contributions. As well as papers concerned with the standardisation and applications of the LAL test, there are noteworthy articles on the structure and activity of endotoxins, the importance of intestinal endotoxin and liver disease, the endotoxic effects of the peptidoglycan of Gram positive bacteria, and endotoxins and the staphylococcal toxic shock syndrome. This book is much more wide ranging and hence of greater appeal than the earlier volume in the series (Vol 93) which had a very similar title. It is strongly recommended for anyone with an interest in the chemistry or biology of endotoxins.

IR POXTON

Notices

ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL PATHOLOGISTS

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

Junior membership of the Association is available to all trainees in pathology for up to six years after the start of training. The annual subscription is £15 and may be claimed against tax. All junior members receive copies of the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*. Other benefits include membership of the Junior Members' Group and a regular junior members' newsletter; the ACP Newsletter and all other documents regularly sent to full members including the postgraduate education programme.

Junior membership normally leads to full membership of the Association, which represents medical pathologists in hospital practice.

Junior membership is not available to trainees overseas and those on short term training schemes in this country. Requests on an individual basis will be considered.

Apply to: Dr PP Anthony, Education Secretary, Postgraduate Medical School, Barrack Road, Exeter EX2 5DW, Devon.

Hodgkin's disease

A Conference will be held Friday 9 May 1986 at Southampton General Hospital.

Topics to be covered will be:

Hodgkin's Disease: basic rules for histopathologic diagnosis (Professor DH Wright); the histogenesis of the Hodgkin's cell and Reed-Sternberg Cell (Dr DB Jones); Hodgkin's disease: immunohistochemistry and differential diagnosis (Professor PG Isaacson).

There will be a panel discussion and slide seminar.

Course fee: £30 including lunch and tea. The course is limited to 25 participants.

Apply to: Professor DH Wright, Level E, South Laboratory/Pathology Block Southampton General Hospital, Tremona Road, Southampton SO9 4XY.

British Society for Dermatopathology summer meeting

The Conference will be held Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 July 1986 at the Octagon Conference Centre, Sheffield.

The subject: malignant melanoma and related problems.

Guest Lecturers will be:

Dr D Elder (Philadelphia) speaking on an assessment of the value of immunopathology in the diagnosis of difficult melanomas and naevi; and Dr R Sagebiel (San Francisco) speaking on the diagnosis and biological significance of sporadic and familial dysplastic naevi.

The meeting will also include a slide seminar and a session devoted to free communications.

Those interested in the meeting should write to: Dr Phillip McKee (Secretary of the British Society of Dermatopathology), Department of Histopathology, St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, London SE1 7EH.

Some new titles

The receipt of books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits.

Directory of On-Going Research in Cancer Epidemiology. IARC Scientific Publications no 69. CS Muir, G Wagner. (Pp 756; paperback £22.) Oxford University Press. 1985.

Essentials of Pathophysiology. Edward W Donovan. (Pp 365; £26.) Collier Macmillan. 1985.

Environmental Carcinogens Selected Methods of Analysis. Vol 7. Some Volatile Halogenated Alkanes and Alkenes. IARC No 68. Ed L Fishbein, IK O'Neill. (Pp 479; £20.) Oxford University Press. 1985.

Summary Report on the Evaluation of Short-term Tests for Carcinogens. (Collaborative Study on *In Vitro* Tests). Environmental Health Criteria 47. (Pp 77; paperback Sw fr 8.) World Health Organization. 1985.

Interpretation of Negative Epidemiological Evidence for Carcinogenicity. IARC no 65. Ed NJ Wald, R Doll. (Pp 232; £20.) Oxford University Press. 1985.