

factors which affect the body after death and methodologies used to estimate time of death are discussed. It will come as no surprise that temperature based methods, which have been the most extensively investigated, occupy a substantial part of the book. There are also useful sections on what are essentially methods of secondary importance, such as muscle, eye and chemical changes. The final chapter on practical casework, bringing it all together, is very welcome. I found this book of considerable assistance. Although accuracy is not necessarily guaranteed, it at least counsels caution and a balanced and realistic approach to the problem, applicable to the circumstances of individual cases.

PETER VANEZIS

**Gastrointestinal Cancers: Biology, Diagnosis and Therapy.** Rustgi AK, ed. (Pp 683; £129.50.) Lippincott-Raven. 1995. ISBN 07817 02763.

With the ever increasing interest in gastrointestinal malignancy, a book devoted solely to this subject might well seem timely and appropriate. And indeed, some of it is, though in general I was disappointed. The book is divided into eight sections. In the first of these, the development and differentiation of the gastrointestinal tract are reviewed with emphasis on the role of growth factors and oncogenes. The following six sections deal with the clinical features, pathology and treatment of malignancies at different sites, including the pancreas and hepatobiliary tree. The final, and perhaps most interesting, section examines future prospects in gastrointestinal malignancy, particularly molecular diagnostics, gene therapy and immunotherapy. The pathology chapters are well written, but due to the scope of the book are inevitably short and concentrate on what I would call the clinical aspects of pathology rather than diagnostic features. The clinical chapters which form the bulk of the book are nicely presented but are too detailed to be of practical use to general pathologists. All of the sections are teeming with molecular biology, most of which is up to date, and so will appeal to pathologists with a penchant for such matters. It is difficult to know precisely who this book is aimed at. I feel it will be of most interest to gastroenterologists and oncologists who wish to gain a broad perspective of gastrointestinal cancer. Pathologists with an interest in gastrointestinal disease and molecular biologists working in the GI field may also find parts of it useful. For most general pathologists, however, this book offers no advantage over other well known texts of gastrointestinal pathology, and so represents poor value for money in these days of cost-consciousness.

PAOLA DOMIZIO

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: 0171 383 6244; fax: 0171 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.)

## Notices

### Lesson of the Month

The Journal would be interested to receive short reports (maximum 250 words) of lessons to be learnt, mistakes that have been avoided or committed, and fascinating phenomena that readers would find interesting. Halftone illustrations are also welcomed.

These will be carried in the Journal as occasional fillers.

### UMDS Dermatopathology Update

Friday February 21 1997

Venue: St Thomas's Hospital, London

Morning—Melanocytic Tumours Update  
Speakers: RW Sagebiel, R Barnhill, M Cook, BM Maguire.

Afternoon—Pre-circulated slide seminar

For further information, please contact: Dr PH McKee, Department of Histopathology, St Thomas's Hospital Medical School, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH. (Tel: 0171 928 9292 ext 2295; fax: 0171 922 8322.)

### Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

Consensus Conference  
on

### Unrelated Donor Bone Marrow Transplantation

October 29 and 30 1996

Venue: Queen Mother Conference Centre, Royal College of Physicians. The Conference will address the following issues, among others:

- The current status of blood or marrow transplants (BMT) from unrelated volunteer donors.
- The cost and the QALY; which patients will benefit most?
- Ethical care of the unrelated volunteer donor; how much can we expect?
- Alternative therapies; autografts and cytotoxic T cells.

For further information, please contact: Education, Audit and Research Department, Royal College of Physicians, 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JQ. (Tel: 0131 225 7324; fax: 0131 220 4393.)

### Forthcoming Royal College of Pathologists Symposia

Cytopathology update:  
Developments and controversies  
in cervical and breast cancer screening  
Friday 6 December 1996

Practical problems for a coroners  
pathologist: Hope to cope  
Thursday 30 January 1997

New aspects of micronutrients in disease  
Wednesday 19 February 1997

Diet and cancer  
Thursday 13 March 1997

The above meetings are open to members and non-members of the College. All meetings will be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, London.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from: Scientific Meetings Officer, RCPPath, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF. (Tel: 0171 930 5862 ext 24/25.)

### Postgraduate Course in Gynecologic and Obstetric Pathology

March 24–28 1997

The Departments of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, will present a postgraduate course in Gynecologic and Obstetric Pathology under the direction of Drs RE Scully, RH Young, CP Crum, to be held at the Four Seasons Hotel, Boston.

This five day course is designed primarily for pathologists and pathology residents, but will also be of interest to gynaecologists with an interest in pathology. It will provide an in depth review of gynaecological and obstetric pathology with emphasis on morphologic diagnostic features and clinicopathological correlation. Special attention will be paid to recent advances and newly recognised entities. Instruction will be primarily by lecture but will also include discussion periods. A new feature of the course this year will be the opportunity to review glass slides of selected unusual cases in the laboratories of the Massachusetts General Hospital during the evenings. Each participant will receive a comprehensive course syllabus.

The course has Category 1 accreditation for approximately 36 hours CME credit by the American Medical Association. The fee for the course is \$795.00 (£530) (residents and fellows \$575.00 (£383)).

For further information, please contact: Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115, USA. (Tel: 617 432 1525; fax: 617 432 1562.)

### Postgraduate Course

### Current Concepts in Surgical Pathology

November 11–15 1996

The Department of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, will present a postgraduate course in Surgical Pathology under the direction of Drs NL Harris, RH Young and EJ Mark.

The course is designed for pathologists at resident and practitioner levels. It will provide in-depth review of diagnostic surgical pathology with emphasis on morphological features, newly recognised entities and new techniques, presented by the faculty of the Department of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital. Instruction will be primarily by lecture, but will also include discussion periods. Each participant will receive a comprehensive course syllabus.

The course has Category 1 accreditation for approximately 35 hours CME credit by the American Medical Association. The fee for the course is \$845.00 (£545.00) (residents and fellows \$650.00 (£419.00)).

For further information, please contact: Department of Continuing Medical Education, Harvard Medical School, 25 Schattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115, USA. (Tel: 617 432 1525.)

### A Two-Day Conference

### Preparing for the In Vitro Diagnostic Directive – An Update

October 23 and 24 1996

Venue: Hotel Palace, Brussels

This practical, two-day conference will provide up to the minute information on many of the important issues faced by today's manufacturers of in vitro diagnostic devices.

For further information, please contact: Sonja Lloyd, Associated Conference Manager, Advanstar Communications, Conference Division, Park West, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4RN. (Tel: 01244 378 888; fax: 01244 370 011.)