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Requests for reprints to: Dr DJ deSa, Department of Pathology, McMaster University, 1200 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S 4J9.

## The June 1981 issue

### THE JUNE 1981 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

#### Review article

Cytochemistry in the bioassay of hormones J CHAYEN, LUCILLE BITENSKY

Costs of a clinical chemistry laboratory JA STILWELL

Changes in thrombin-stimulated platelet malondialdehyde production during the menstrual cycle H TINDALL, M ZUZEL, RC PATON, GP MCNICOL

Relation between postoperative antithrombin III concentrations and site of operation SP GRAY, JA BILLINGS, VALERIE NEWTON, AUDREY OLIVE

Adriamycin cardiotoxicity: report of an unusual case with features resembling endomyocardial fibrosis W FITTER, DJ DESA, KRM PAI

Malakoplakia of the adrenal gland E BENJAMIN, H FOX

Morphometric differences between urothelial cells in voided urine of patients with grade I and grade II bladder tumours MATHILDE E BOON, PHJ KURVER, JPA BAAK, ECM OOMS

Interstitial nephritis AJ DIXON, CG WINEARLS, MS DUNNILL

Method for measuring fibrinolytic activity in a single layer of cells AT RAFTERY

Forms of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> in radioisotope dilution assays JA BEGLEY, CA HALL

Data handling and reporting for microbiology specimens with a small laboratory computer system RA LANDOWNE

Rapid detection and presumptive identification of *Clostridium difficile* by *p*-cresol production on a selective medium KD PHILLIPS, PA ROGERS

Relation between concentrations of metronidazole and *Bacteroides* spp in faeces of patients with Crohn's disease and healthy individuals A KROOK, B LINDSTRÖM, J KJELLANDER, G JÄRNEROT, L BODIN

Impaired bacteriological responses in babies after maternal iron dextran infusion MH WEBSTER, SHEENA A WAITKINS, A STOTT

Hepatitis and other infections in clinical laboratory staff, 1979 NR GRIST

Screening for toxoplasmosis in pregnancy EJ BROADBENT, R ROSS, ROSALINDE HURLEY

Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay for measurement of antibody against cytomegalovirus and rubella virus in a single serum dilution AM VAN LOON, JTHM VAN DER LOGT, J VAN DER VEEN

Trypsinised human O erythrocytes in the detection of rubella-specific IgM by sera fractionation on sucrose density gradient and absorption with staphylococcal protein A W AL-NAKIB

Occurrence of IgM antibodies to BK and JC polyomaviruses during pregnancy PATRICIA E GIBSON, ANNE M FIELD, SYLVIA D GARDNER, DULCIE V COLEMAN

Human rotavirus antigen detection by enzyme-immunoassay with antisera against Nebraska calf diarrhoea virus HK SARKKINEN

#### Technical method

A simple method of concentrating small samples of cerebrospinal fluid for electrophoresis ARW FORREST

#### Letters to the Editor

#### Book reviews

#### Notices

Copies are still available and may be obtained from the PUBLISHING MANAGER, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON WC1H 9JR, price £3-00, including postage

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## Reports and Bulletins prepared by the Association of Clinical Biochemists

The following reports and bulletins are published by the Association of Clinical Biochemists. They may be obtained from The Publishing Department, British Medical Journal (ACB Technical Bulletins), BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Overseas readers should remit by British Postal or Money Order.

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- 5** Assay of cholinesterase in clinical chemistry March  
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### TECHNICAL BULLETINS (price £1.00/\$2.00 each)

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and P PURKISS
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SS BROWN, and JR HOBBS
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CE WILDE
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- 40** A practical guide to gamma-counting in radio-  
immunoassay January 1980 CE WILDE and D OTTEWELL
- 41** The use of biochemical tests in the diagnosis of  
disorders of calcium metabolism July 1980 ANGELA  
FAIRNEY

antibodies, is not to be found in this volume. While to some extent this reflects the extreme rapidity of developments in lymphoma research a number of the contributions in this book are in substance reprints of papers previously published some three years ago. There are exceptions to this and in particular the first two chapters on normal lymphoid tissue and B and T-cell differentiation are outstanding. Unfortunately subsequent contributions on lymphoma classification do not build on this excellent beginning. The book is directed at the pathologist with a special interest in malignant lymphoma who will find it worthwhile perusing in the library and useful as a source of reference.

P ISAACSON

**Benchbook on Brucella.** L Robertson, ID Farrell, PM Hinchcliffe and RA Quaife. Public Health Laboratory Service. Monograph Series 14. (Pp 45; illustrated; £3.) HMSO. 1980.

This clearly presented and concisely written manual will be particularly valuable in the laboratory and very useful for clinicians. The introduction provides a concise account of the disease's prevalence and the diagnostic difficulties. The safeguards recommended to avoid laboratory infections are stressed and the merits of the alternative diagnostic techniques are described clearly, with an explanation of any change from conventional practice. The value of marrow culture is emphasised. Few would use the recommended antibiotic cocktail in blood cultures as usually these are part of a PUO investigation. The information that antigens and control sera can be obtained from the PHLS is welcome.

KB ROGERS

**Practical Immunology.** 2nd ed. L Hudson and FC Hay. (Pp 359; illustrated; £10.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1980.

The second edition of this practical immunology bench book should prove as useful as the first particularly to Ph D students. The style is easy to follow and concise, and stepwise instructions clearly indicated for each procedure.

The background of the authors in experimental immunology is reflected in much of the book. Even the initial chapter on the preparation of "basic" reagents and

basic techniques refers to keyhole limpet haemocyanin and the preparation of hapten-carrier conjugates—reagents unfamiliar to most workers in the clinical field. The chapter on hybridoma technology emphasises the need to keep in step with the latest bandwagon. Nevertheless those working in clinical laboratories will find much of practical value in this book even if they do not feel up to raising their own monoclonal antibodies. They will need to be selective and have some idea of what they are doing in the first place. It may be irritating not to be able to find a supplier for some essential reagents. I suppose everyone should know how to obtain Chloramine T, but where do you get L-929 cells and EMC virus if you wished to set up a test for interferon? However at £10 for some 300 pages it represents good value.

RA THOMPSON

**Vasculitis.** Ed K Wolff and RK Winkelmann. (Pp 338; illustrated; £20.) Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1980.

Vasculitis is of importance to workers in many disciplines and this volume is the report of the Fourth International Clinical Symposium of the European Society for Dermatological Research. Although the major emphasis of the papers relates to dermatology, a large part of the book is concerned with more general aspects of the pathogenesis of vasculitis and this will be of most interest to pathologists. The quality of the articles is variable and some of them have translated to the written page less well than others. However, overall the book presents an opportunity to bring oneself reasonably up to date. It is a book to recommend to the librarian rather than to purchase as a laboratory bench book.

G SLAVIN

**Rapid Virus Diagnosis: Application of Immunofluorescence.** 2nd ed. PS Gardner and I McQuillin. (Pp 317; illustrated; £29.) Butterworths. 1980.

This new and improved edition deals in critical detail with immunofluorescence in the field of clinical virology. The enthusiasm of its authors is well balanced by the maturity of experience: full recognition is given to the exacting demands of these techniques with clear signposts to the main pitfalls. The

writers repeatedly emphasise the decisive importance of high quality specific reagents, quality controlled before and fully controlled during use.

Five chapters describe the principles and details of the methods and their interpretation. Twelve chapters review the applications of immunofluorescence to important groups of viruses, including accounts of the viruses to which the authors have devoted such close and sustained attention. Chapter 18 discusses the complexities and problems of detecting virus-specific IgM which is bedevilled with traps for even experienced workers. The final chapter discusses the application of the methods to clinical virology in general.

Immunofluorescence has established itself a sure place among the rapid techniques of clinical virology. This book will be essential for study and reference in laboratories where immunofluorescence is used or being introduced. Its emphasis on meticulous techniques, exacting controls, and cautious validation and interpretation will not mislead the reader into thinking that these methods provide easy short-cuts to diagnostic virology.

NR GRIST

## Notice

### Symposia in Basic Gastroenterology

The Second Symposium in this series entitled "Autonomic nerves of the gut," organised by the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in collaboration with the Medical Department of Glaxo Group Research, will be held in London on 22 September 1981. The organisers are JM Polak, SR Bloom, NA Wright, M Daly. For information, please write to: Dr M Daly, Glaxo Group Research, Ware, Herts SG12 0DJ, England.