

## Other correspondence

and did not have acetic acid applied to the cervix.<sup>3</sup> We do not know of any published work regarding the effect of acetic acid application on the measured width of cervical epithelium, and find the preliminary results of Barton *et al* of interest, although applying acetic acid to the cervix after hysterectomy and hemisection may not have the same effect as applying it during colposcopy. In fact, the width of cervical epithelium in biopsy specimens from our two groups of controls, one exposed to acetic acid and the other not, did not differ significantly.

We were unable to detect any significant differences in Langerhans' cell counts or in major histocompatibility class II expression when our two groups of controls were compared. The controls differed significantly from the patients with koilocytosis or cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) when assayed for several independent criteria.<sup>4</sup> We feel, therefore, that our controls, most of whom did undergo colposcopy, are, in fact, more appropriate than those selected by Tay *et al*,<sup>3</sup> and that our work supports the hypothesis that both HPV infection and CIN are associated with a localised disturbance of immune function.

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## References

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- 2 Braathen LR, Berle E, Mobeck-Hanssen U, Thorsby E. Studies on human epidermal Langerhans cells. II Activation of human T-lymphocytes to herpes simplex virus. *Acta Dermatol* 1980;60:381-8.
- 3 Tay SK, Jenkins D, Maddox P, Campion M, Singer A. Subpopulations of Langerhans cells in cervical neoplasia. *Br J Obstet Gynaecol* 1987;94:10-15.
- 4 Hughes RG, Norval M, Howie SEM. Expression of major histocompatibility class II antigens by Langerhans' cells in cervical intraepithelial neoplasia. *J Clin Pathol* 1988;41:253-9.

## Book reviews

**Sjögren's Syndrome. Clinical and Immunological Aspects.** Ed N Talal, HM Moutsopoulos, SS Kassan. (Pp 299; 51 figs and 63 tables; DM 218.) Springer. 1987. ISBN 3-540-17477-X.

This book presents an up to date broadly based review of clinical and research findings of Sjögren's syndrome. The book consists of chapters by a number of different authors well known for research in this field.

The introduction describes the historical aspects, the recognition of the syndrome in the 1930s by Sjögren, and the difficulties faced in having his work accepted. It also includes the patients' perspective of the disease and its morbidity. The first main section is on the clinical spectrum of the disease, which includes glandular and extra glandular findings, lymphoid malignancy, associations with other autoimmune diseases, diagnosis, and differential diagnosis. This is followed by the second main section on laboratory abnormalities, largely immunological, and which contains a most useful review chapter on animal models in Sjögren's syndrome. Finally, there is a chapter which provides an update on the treatment and management of patients with Sjögren's syndrome.

This book records a great deal of well referenced information about this unusual condition. As Dr Talal points out in his preface, the final chapter remains to be written. In the meantime, and to this end, this book will provide many research workers and all those who are interested in Sjögren's syndrome with the basic knowledge from which further progress can be made. It can be highly recommended to all workers in the field.

DK MASON

**Human Inflammatory Disease. Clinical Immunology.** Vol 1. G Marone, LW Lichtenstein, M Condorelli, AS Fauci. (Pp 327; £60.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1988. ISBN 1-55664-034-X.

This volume consists of lectures delivered at the 1st Capri Conference on Clinical Immunology, June 1986, and combines basic research with clinical aspects of inflammation. There are four subject groups: inflammatory cells and mediators, cardiovascular inflammatory disease, adenosine and adenosine receptors, and biochemical aspects of inflammation. A major strength of the book is its extensive coverage of the immunoregulatory effects of adenosine and of inflam-

matory processes in ischaemic heart disease, neither of which subjects have been extensively reviewed elsewhere. Individual chapters are particularly concise and informative, notably those by Rossi (IgE receptors), Kagey-Sobotka (mast cell mediators) and Hirschhorn (ADA deficiency). Conversely, topics equally worthy of consideration, such as complement anaphylatoxin receptors, leucocyte cytoadhesive glycoproteins, and inflammatory effects of cytokines, are conspicuously absent. In general, the level of presentations would suit a postgraduate student or young researcher seeking an introduction to the relevant field.

EF RIMMER

**Human Retroviruses, Cancer, and AIDS. Approaches to Prevention and Therapy.** UCLA Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology. New Series, Vol 71. (Pp 524; \$96.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1987. ISBN 0-8451-2670-9.

This volume represents the proceedings of one of the UCLA symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology, held at Keystone, Colorado in April 1987. Despite its broad title, the 33 research contributions, save for one paper on foamy viruses from Flügel's group and one on a neurotropic mouse virus from Ruprecht, are wholly devoted to HIV. All these papers are research reports from individual laboratories whose results have simultaneously been published as papers in primary journals. Other than inserting extra data that did not pass muster in the peer review system, I fail to see any purpose for the academic community in publishing such proceedings. I must be in a minority as publishers like Alan R Liss Inc clearly find them profitable.

This volume might be useful for readers who wish to obtain a spectrum of papers, mainly by competent research groups, on the state of HIV art over one year ago. It covers the molecular biology of HIV, some half baked speculations on its pathogenesis, and now outdated results on experimental therapeutic and vaccine reagents. The symposium was surely a useful gathering for the participants, and that is where it should have rested.

There are, however, two excellent and perceptive overviews which are well worth reading by the Nobel prize winning discoverers of reverse transcriptase. In an introductory article, Howard Temin reviews the evolution of retroviruses and transposons, and as an epilogue David Baltimore reviews "HIV, 1987". Again, their views are available in numerous other journals so I would not buy the volume for them alone.

RA WEISS