
The acronym ToRCH was devised by Andre Nahmias in 1971 to highlight the importance of Toxoplasma gondii (T), Rubella virus (R), Cytomeglovirus (C) and Herpes simplex virus (H) in congenital infection. Because the acronym did not cover all the recognised aetiological agents, it was in common usage modified to TORCH, 'O' embracing 'other' organisms. Since then, the importance of hepatitis B, human immunodeficiency virus, and AIDS for prenatal diagnosis has been recognized. The increasing spectrum of pathogenic agents coupled with concern by many microbiologists about the appropriateness of many requests for "TORCH screen" led the Public Health Laboratory Service to convene a working party whose remit was to suggest guidelines appropriate to diagnostic laboratories. The working party extended their remit to include not only congenital infections, but also perinatal and neonatal infections, and this short monograph is the result of their labours.

The epidemiology of the different congenital infections, their prevention, the methods of laboratory diagnosis, and problems relating to these tests are dealt with separately for each organism in a clear and concise manner. I was surprised, however, that no mention was made in this section of the Chlamydia psittaci infections of ovine origin. There are additional sections which review the problems of notification and quantification of congenital infections and sampling methods for virus (B19) and other medical laboratory personnel. Presentations showing the recent research developments in the pathogenesis and aetiology of congenital disease processes, new technology, and future directions in clinical laboratory assays will be offered by a distinguished faculty of renowned scientists. Fee £375.00.

For further information, contact: Laurie J. Jones, Department of Academic Affairs, Box 4005 Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, 10666 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037. Telephone: (619) 554-9592

NOTICES

Clinical Laboratory Molecular Analysis
February 13–15, 1991
Hyatt Regency Hotel, La Jolla, California, USA

This, the thirteenth annual conference on clinical laboratory immunochemical and molecular assays, is designed for pathologists, technologists, clinical chemists, microbiologists, and other medical laboratory personnel. Presentations showing the recent research developments in the pathogenesis and aetiology of congenital disease processes, new technology, and future directions in clinical laboratory assays will be offered by a distinguished faculty of renowned scientists. Fee £375.00.

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There have been several monographs on this subject in recent years. This one is noteworthy in the special attention paid to the scientific background of the subject. In particular the chapter on disease causes by toxic environmental exposure gives much interesting information.

It is intended particularly for histopathologists, and descriptions of scroma, inverted papilloma, adenoid cystic carcinoma and bone tumours, among the important pathological lesions, will provide little aid for our diagnostic struggles with difficult nasal biopsies. In contrast, there is much detail on the histopathology of Wegener's granulomatosis, but insufficient warning that its diagnosis should be based on systemic clinical and renal, not nasal biopsy, criteria.

In spite of these criticisms I can recommend this book to anyone interested in nasal disease. In its broad approach to disease processes it is properly a "pathology" text in a difficult and little explored field, rather than a bench manual on a small part of the histopathology service.

L MICHAELS

Methods of Immunological Research and Diagnosis
An at-the-bench laboratory training program
The Ernest Witebsky Center for Immunology, University at Buffalo, State University of New York 2–14 June 1991.

Daily practical laboratory exercises personally carried out by participants, accompanied by lectures, demonstrations and discussions.


Inquiries should be received by 15 March 1991 to insure consideration for acceptance.

The Nottingham Breast Cancer Screening Training Unit
Breast fine needle aspiration cytology
A one day Master Class on Tuesday 18 December 1990, presented by Dr J L Peterse from the Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam. A two day course on Monday and Tuesday 25 and 26 March, 1991. A comprehensive course on Breast FNA cytology run in conjunction with the BSCC. Topics covered include symptomatic and screening breast disease, sampling techniques, diagnostic features, reporting methods and problem conditions.

Speakers include A Herbert, J Lamb, P Lever, E McGoogan, G McKee, P Trot, and members of the Nottingham Breast Screening Training Team. The course includes lectures and workshop teaching.

For details of either course contact: Mrs Betty Price Breast Screening Training Co-ordinator City Hospital Hucknall Road Nottingham NG5 1PB (0602) 691689
Dr Ian O Ellis Consultant Histopathologist City Hospital Hucknall Road Nottingham NG5 1PB (0602) 691169 ext 46875

Association of Clinical Pathologists
Junior Membership

Junior membership of the Association is available to medical practitioners who have been engaged in the practice of pathology for a period of less than four years. Junior members are able to remain in this category for a maximum of six years or on the attainment of consultant status. The annual subscription is £24 for those resident in the United Kingdom and £35 for those overseas. The annual subscription may be claimed against tax.

Junior members receive the Journal of Clinical Pathology each month. Other benefits are reduced registration fees to attend ACP scientific meetings, all the documents regularly sent to full members of the Association including ACP News, which has a regular column for juniors, and the twice yearly summary of pathology courses included in the ACP programme of postgraduate education.

Junior members have their own representative body, the Junior Members’ Group, which has a direct input to Council.

For Junior Membership apply to: The Honorary Secretary, Association of Clinical Pathologists, School of Biological Sciences, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9QG. (0273) 678435.