This volume resulted from a workshop held at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, in Hamburg and was supported by the European Community Project “Immunopathology and Immunology of HIV-related diseases”.

In recognition of the fact that cytotoxic T lymphocytes have a central role in controlling HIV, as in other viral infections, the papers presented represent current research activities in the cellular immunology of HIV-1 and 2, HIV, and HTLV-1. The molecular basis for cytotoxic T cell recognition of HIV, the functional characteristics of these cells, and their roles in protection against disease progression and contributions to clinical manifestations are covered in contributions from many parts of the world. In the section on animal models a detailed analysis of cytotoxic T lymphocyte responses of lentiviruses in non-human pri- mates is presented, together with a description of the use of a primate model for assessing cytotoxic T lymphocyte responses to vaccination.

In the third and final section recent advances in our understanding of histologi- cal changes in lymphoid tissue in HIV infection are described, together with the localisation of cytotoxic T cells and infor- mation on the possible role of cellular adhesion molecules and cytokines in these processes.

The book is clearly important to cellular immunologists and virologists working in the area of retroviral vaccine development. It will be of interest to other virologists and other clinicians and scientists working on HIV infections. The latter groups will, how- ever, find it heavy going. It surely behoves all scientists to render their presentations easily understandable by colleagues in other disciplines. For example, the sentence “Similar specific effects of peptide were found on H-2Kb in RMA-S and HLA-A 2:1 in .17/4T2,” is not exactly easy to follow, even if it is referenced. The book would have benefited considerably from some basic information, either a glossary or preferably an introductory chapter to set the scene and to guide the reader through the minefield of acronyms and abbreviations which characterises modern immunology.

DJ JEFFRIES


This is the first book entirely devoted to the pathophysiology and clinical treatment of electrical injuries. The three named authors are actually also the editors of chapters by over 30 expert contributors, all but two from the United States. None of these is a pathologist and the book is not really concerned with fatal electrocution, though there are a few references to fatalities, including delayed death. The book is a mix- ture of electrical physics, bio-engineering and much surgical expertise, especially in the plastic and reconstructive field.

Probably everything that is currently known about the pathophysiology of electric- al damage to nerves is contained in this collection of monographs, which is copious. Its spectrum of interest swings from the acute treatment, burns to cell membrane rupture by electrical fields. Some of the chapters require considerable knowledge of electrical nomenclature, mea- surement equipment, and higher mathematics, but the clinical descriptions are not documented from the more esoteric areas dealing with bio-electrical theory and practice.

There is not much of relevance to a coro- nist’s pathologist, but the book would be an asset to the library of any large general hospital, especially those with a busy acci- dent department, burns unit, or plastic and reconstructive surgical service.

BH KNIGHT


Knowledge of the structure and functions of cytokines has rapidly expanded over a short time, and with their introduction into clini- cal treatment it is essential that clinicians and pathologists are aware of the current position and future developments. This is easier said than done since the literature on cytokine biology is mainly published in journals infrequently referenced by clinicians, whereas the papers on their clinical use are still often preliminary and give confusing results. There is, therefore, a definite requirement for a concise well written book determining the clinical role of cytokines. Fortunately, Galvani and Cawley have satis- fied that requirement with this book.

Written by international experts, each chapter deals both with the molecular and biological properties of the clinically rele- vant cytokines with a review of their thera- peutic trials. The section on erythropoietin provides a graphic illustration of the speed of change since the original description of the cloning and expression of the human gene for erythropoietin was published in 1985, the first clinical trial completed with- in one year, and the commercial availability would have been the dream of the dream research. Several rapid developments are described in chapters on granulocyte macrophage colony- stimulating factor, granulocyte colony-stimulating factor, interleukins -1, -2 and -3, interferon , interferon , and tumour necrosis factor. The clear message to the reader for all of these cytokines is that while it is still early days to assess fully their clini- cal potential, there is no doubt that they will play an increasingly important therapeutic part in many areas of medicine.

In order to make sense of a complex sub- ject, the editors have logically dealt with each cytokine separately, but physiologically there are highly complex interactions between various cytokines, and future clini- cal developments are likely to be in the area of cytokine combinations. The characteris- tics of the cytokine network are elegantly and concisely described by Brenner in the concluding chapter.

The price of this book, whether in hard- back or paperback, is a fraction of the costs of commercially available diagnostic kits. I would recommend its purchase to any clinici- an using or contemplating using cytokine treatment in order that their decisions may be based on good scientific evidence.

DA WINFIELD