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Papers should be sent in duplicate to the Editors, *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, BMJ Publishing Group, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Telephone numbers: 0171 383 6209/6154. Fax number: 0171 383 6668. They should be typewritten with double spacing on one side of the paper only. The names of the authors with initials or one forename should be followed by the name of the institution where the work was performed. An indication of the position held by each author must be given in an accompanying letter to the Editors, and this should include the signatures of all authors on papers with joint authorship. Guidelines on authorship are detailed in *J Clin Pathol* 1986;39:110. Results should not be shown as both tables and graphs, and histograms should not be used where tabular information would be more appropriate.

ARTICLES Papers should usually be no more than 2000 words long and should report original research of relevance to the understanding and practice of clinical pathology. They should be written in the standard format with a structured abstract. The abstract should contain the headings *Aims, Methods, Results and Conclusions* and be no more than 250 words long. The body of the paper should have separate sections for the introduction, the methods and the results, and the discussion. If statistics are used the methods and confidence intervals should be stated. Authors are urged to seek expert advice if in doubt. Revised manuscripts should be submitted as hard copy and on disk. Detailed instructions will be sent to authors on invitation to revise. Occasional Articles have a less rigid format, being 1500–2000 words in length. They are usually invited by the editors, though unsolicited submissions will be considered. Single case reports and brief papers (such as those describing negative findings) will usually be considered only as Short Reports. The format for these is an unstructured 150 word summary, up to 1500 words of text, up to two tables or figures (or one of each) and no more than 10 references. Letters to the Editor should normally refer to previously published papers or make some point about the practice of pathology. They are not intended to be a vehicle for the presentation of new data unrelated to earlier Journal articles.

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Three dimensional view of trabecular bone using real time stereoscopic confocal microscopy. Courtesy of Professor Alan Boyde, Department of Anatomy, University College London and Dr Jon Bennett, Department of Oral Pathology, Eastman Dental Institute.

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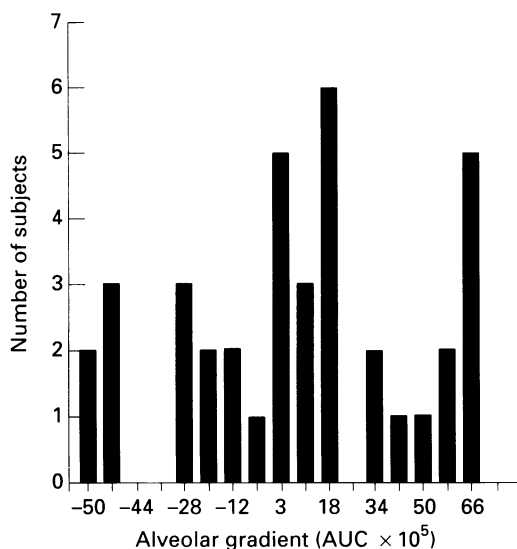


Figure 2 Frequency distribution of the alveolar gradients of isoprene. Units are area under curve (AUC) of the chromatographic peak of isoprene.

sources. Thirdly, the alveolar gradient seems to provide a convenient index of the net effect of environmental exposure to the VOC and the rate at which it is created or destroyed in the body.

An advantage of this approach is that it obviates the need to supply the subject with chemically clean inspired air, as Jones *et al* suggest. We (and others) have found this to be a fruitless undertaking because of the technical difficulty of cleansing air of all VOCs at a picomolar level. It is also unphysiological,

because real people breathe real air which is full of VOC contaminants.

- 1 Phillips M, Greenberg J, Awad J. Metabolic and environmental origins of volatile organic compounds in breath. *J Clin Pathol* 1994;47:1052-3.
- 2 Phillips M. Detection of carbon disulfide in breath and air: A possible new risk factor for coronary artery disease. *Int Arch Occup Environ Health* 1992;64:119-23.
- 3 Phillips M, Sabas M, Greenberg J. Alveolar gradient of pentane in normal human breath. *Free Radic Res Commun* 1994;20:333-7.

Notices

The Royal College of Pathologists *presents*

Joint RCPATH/BSH/BBTS Update Meeting in Transfusion Medicine
December 6-7 1995

JC, HIV, HSE - Health and Safety in the Autopsy Suite
Thursday, January 25 1996

Diagnostic Pitfalls in Histopathology/Cytopathology
Wednesday, February 7 1996

Stress in the NHS
Thursday, March 14 1996

All Symposia will be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1, and are open to members and non-members of the College.

Further details and application forms are now available and can be obtained from: Scientific Meetings Officer, RCPATH, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1 5AF. (Tel: 0171 930 5862, ext: 24/25.)

Texas Society of Pathologists

75 Years Young

presents

Pathology: Past, Present and Future

Diamond Jubilee Celebration

February 1-4 1996

For further information, please contact: Paula Rigling, Texas Society of Pathologists, 401 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701-1680, USA.

First Announcement

5th International Congress on Trace Elements in Medicine and Biology

presents

Therapeutic Uses of Trace Elements

February 4-7 1996

Main topics include: Therapeutic forms of trace elements; large epidemiological and intervention studies related to trace elements; trace element supplementation of population groups of differing ages; and trace elements, bone physiology and bone diseases, among others.

For further information, please contact: Madame A Alcaraz, Laboratoire de Biochimie C, CHURG, B.P. 217, F-38043 Grenoble Cedex 9, France (tel: (33) 76 76 54 84; fax: (33) 76 76 56 64).

Sheffield Cytology Training School *presents* Cytopathology for Histopathologists February 5-9 1996 and June 24-28 1996

An intensive five day course of lectures and microscopy workshops in both gynaecological and non-gynaecological cytology suitable for candidates for the MRCPATH or Diploma in Cytopathology examinations, or established consultants requiring an update. Course tutors: Dr J H F Smith, Dr J L Channer, Mrs E M Hewer, Prof F Sharp (Sheffield), Dr I O Ellis (Nottingham), Dr J A Young (Birmingham), Dr P Smith (Liverpool), Dr A P Boon (Leeds), Mr R Smith (Brighton). The course is approved for the RCPATH CME scheme, and participants in career grade posts will be entitled to claim 25 CME points. The June course is also time-tabled to run consecutively with the Autopsy and Diagnostic Histopathology Courses organised by the Sheffield University Department of Pathology. Course fee, including refreshments: £350.

An Introduction to Cervical Cytology

May 20-22 1996

An intensive three day course for junior medical staff to describe the operation of the national cervical screening programme together with lecture and microscopy sessions on cervical cytology. Course tutors: Dr J H F Smith, Dr J L Channer, Mrs E M Hewer, Prof F Sharp. Course fee, including refreshments: £200.

Accommodation is available on site at a modest additional charge.

For further details and course reservations, please contact: Mrs E M Hewer, Manager, Sheffield Cytology Training School, Northern General Hospital, Herries Road, Sheffield S5 7AU (Tel & fax: 0114 271 5500.)

13th International Conference on Human Tumour Markers

June 16-19 1996

Sponsored by: International Academy of Tumor Marker Oncology (IATMO), Vienna

Organiser: Singapore Association of Clinical Biochemists

Topics for scientific sessions include: enzymology related to malignancy, clinical application of tumour markers, hormones and cancer, new instrumentation/methodology, and new developments in oncogenes and tumour biology.

The Conference will also feature free oral/poster presentation sessions and an industrial exhibition.

Organising Committee Co-Chairmen: Dr It-Koon Tan/Dr Edward Jacob, Department of Pathology, Singapore General Hospital, Singapore. (Tel: (65) 321 4914; fax: (65) 222 6826.)

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