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Immunofluorescence staining of skin demonstrating IgG antibody deposition along the basement membrane zone in a patient with bulbous pemphigoid.
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Institute in Newark, USA, which had been founded by the celebrated actor/singer/comedian. The intention was to revise and update the "brown book" *Standardization of Nomenclature, Diagnostic Criteria and Diagnostic Methodology for Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Tract*, published in 1976. Work on the second version started in 1986 and subsequently involved some 114 international experts whose names are listed: a truly formidable assembly. Each disease is characterised as to its definition, clinical and laboratory criteria, radiology, histological appearances, aetiology, and prognosis. The first six chapters describe physical examination, laboratory investigation and currently available tests, imaging techniques and their usefulness, morphological findings that may be encountered, show tabulation of aetiologies, and discuss prognosis and decision analysis. Chapters 7 to 15 deal with specific disease groupings. Some of these are based on clinical presentation—for example, hepatitis or cholestasis, others on pathology such as fatty liver, vascular disorders or tumours, or a mixture of both. Consequently, many entities turn up in more than one chapter or are oddly placed like passive congestion, sickle cell disease, and cholangiocarcinoma under cholestasis. However, cross referencing is abundant and the index lists all sites of entry. The outdated terminology of chronic persistent and chronic aggressive hepatitis is no longer used and chronic liver diseases are dealt with according to their aetiology. Under congenital and perinatal disorders, the concept of ductal plate maldevelopment, which links a group of cystic/biliary/fibrotic conditions together, is not fully elucidated and mesenchymal haematoma [sic] appears in the chapter on tumours. Spelling mistakes are not infrequent and should have been corrected as in Tables 4.1, 4.2, and 5.1. Other, minor criticisms concern understatements like "hepatocellular carcinoma can develop in HBV carriers" or lack of detail—for example, "antimitochondrial antibodies are present in 93% of patients" (with primary biliary cirrhosis) and tabulation of drugs commonly associated with particular types of liver injury would have been useful. All in all, the book may have suffered from too much advice from too many contributors and this has resulted in some lack of organisation. However, all main aspects of liver and biliary diseases (including those of the gall bladder) have been well covered in a succinct and usable form, and the book will serve as a standard for years to come. It is recommended to hepatologists whatever their specialty.

P P ANTHONY

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Notices

Oxford Regional Cytology
Training School,
John Radcliffe Hospital
presents the
**Non-gynaecological & fine
needle aspiration cytology course**

5-9 June 1995

This one week course is suitable for trainee medical and MLSO staff. Some accommodation is available.

Course fees: Employees of ORHA—No charge for the course, but £10.00 is required to cover administration and hospitality costs. Others: £350. The FNA cytology component may be attended separately on 8-9 June. Fee: £100.

Course Organiser: Dr I D Buley, Consultant Pathologist, Histopathology & Cytology, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU.

Further details from Miss Patsy King on 0865 220510.

**South Thames
West Regional Cytology
Training Centre
1995 Training Courses**

FNA Course for Pathologists:
9 May—Includes practical aspects and a microscopy session.

**Non-Gynaecological Cytology
Workshop for Pathologists:**
11 May—Lectures and microscopy to include major organs.

**Two day Pre-Certificate of
Competence Course:**
4 and 5 September—For MLSOs and cytoscreeners preparing for the Certificate of Competence exam.

**Four week Introductory
Gynaecological Course for MLSOs
and Cytoscreeners:**
2 to 27 October.

**Gynaecological Update Cytology for
Pathologists:**
14th November.

**One week Introductory Non-
Gynaecological Cytology Course for
MSOs:**
20 to 24 November.

**One week Gynaecological Update
Cytology Course for MLSOs:**
27 November to 1 December.

**Half day Breast Workshop
(Regional EQA): 4 December—Lecture
and microscopy.**

**Gynaecological Cytology Refresher
Course for MLSOs: 7 December.**

For further information, please contact: Dr Grace McKee or Mrs Jennifer Walker, Department of Cytopathology, Royal Surrey County Hospital, Egerton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XX. (tel: 01483 571122 ext. 4374/4373; fax: 01483 453615).

Royal Brompton National
Heart and Lung Institute
presents the
**Practical adult cardiovascular
pathology course**
on

Monday 16 October 1995

Course organisers: Professor M J Davies and Dr M N Sheppard.

This practical "hands on" course approaches in detail the problems that face the diagnostic pathologist when dealing with cardiovascular pathology. The approach to a cardiac necropsy and sudden death will be emphasised. Cardiac specimens will be made available for dissection and analysis and practical demonstrations as well as video demonstrations will be highlighted. A slide seminar with slides distributed to all participants is included. The course is aimed at trainees studying for the MRCPATH and also at senior pathologists who wish to update their knowledge.

Course fee: £75.00 (includes coffee, tea and lunch). There is a special fee of £50.00 for juniors in training.

For further information, please contact: National Heart and Lung Institute, Dovehouse Street, London SW3 6LY (tel: 0171 351 8172; fax: 0171 376 3422).

**Sheffield
Cytology Training School
Courses for Medical Staff 1995**

An Introduction to
Non-Gynaecological Cytology

17-19 May 1995

A three day course for junior medical staff providing both a practical and theoretical introduction to non-gynaecological cytology. Course tutors will include invited guest lecturers. Course fee (including refreshments): £250.

Cytopathology for Histopathologists

19-23 June 1995

An intensive five day course of lectures and practical instruction by local and visiting speakers suitable for the MRCPATH or Diploma in Cytopathology or for established consultants requiring an update. This course is timetabled to run consecutively with the Autopsy and Diagnostic Histopathology Courses organised by the Sheffield University Department of Pathology. Course fee (including refreshments): £350. This course has been approved for the Royal College of Pathologists CME Scheme and course participants in career grade posts will qualify for 5 CME points per day.

Accommodation is available on site at a modest additional charge.

For further information, please contact: Mrs EM Hewer, Manager, Sheffield Cytology Training School, Northern General Hospital, Herries Road, Sheffield S5 7AU (tel & fax: 0114 271 5500).