Book reviews

Tumour Markers. S Eissa. (£95.00.) Chapman and Hall, 1999. ISBN 0 412 81720 9.

Tumour markers are surrogate indicators of the presence of malignancy. They are good indicators of the behaviour of malignant neoplasms. The present book covers in depth the various markers expressed by different tumours, describes the different techniques used for their detection, and stresses their clinical usefulness in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The book is logically divided into 10 parts. Part one deals with the technical aspects of investigations of tumour markers including immunocytochemistry, flow cytometry, and a variety of molecular biology methods. Part two analyses the tissue antigens that are used as markers for diagnosis and it is subdivided into non-haematological markers, haematological markers, and markers for undifferentiated tumours or metastases of unknown origin. In part three the authors make a good analysis of flow cytometric and single cell cytometry markers. The prediction of tumour response to treatment is analysed in part four and is divided into steroid hormone receptors, drug resistance in cancer chemotherapy, and multidrug resistance in human cancer. Part five analyses in an exemplary manner those markers indicative for tumour proliferation and apoptosis, whereas part six studies markers of invasion and metastasis. The genetic makeup of malignancies is analysed in part seven, which is subdivided into five parts: (a) general genomic markers, (b) specific genetic markers, (c) tumour suppressor genes, (d) oncogene and oncosuppressor gene expression and prognosis, and (e) molecular phenotyping of lymphoid malignancies. In part eight the authors analyse markers for the early detection of cancers, whereas part nine deals with markers for cancer imaging and treatment including radioimmunodetection and radioimmunotherapy. Part 10 deals specifically with tumour markers in selected organ systems covering all the 24 principal organs.

The book is very well written, logically presented, and with excellent illustrations. The technology is not only dealt with in the early chapters but, in each of them, they emphasise many of the technical aspects. My only very minor criticism would be that all the tumours derived from the diffuse neuroendocrine system are discussed in each individual organ rather than as separate entities. I would recommend all clinicians, researchers, diagnosticians, and cell biologists interested in oncology to purchase this book.

J POLAK

Cellular Pathology. D J Cook. (£19.99.) Butterworth Heinemann, 1998. ISBN 0 750 63111 2.

What a gem of a book! This forms one of a series of publications called "Biomedical sciences explained" and explain in exactly is what the author does here. All of the major fields and techniques of routine histopathol-

ogy are here, ranging from the rationale behind tinctorial staining, to histochemistry, exfoliative cytology, immunocytochemistry, light microscopy itself, electron microscopy, and molecular pathology. In addition, there is a useful section on laboratory organisation.

What also makes this volume so attractive is the inclusion of boxes on many pages that contain "not many people know that" facts and information; these mean also that the book can be dipped into at leisure. In addition, there is a succinct summary with key concepts at the end of each chapter. Furthermore, for the BMS student preparing for examinations, there is a self assessment section. This leads us to the question of the potential readership of this work. Certainly, all BMS students should read and digest the entire contents. However, so also should anyone working in a histopathology laboratory, whether the experienced BMS, the trainee histopathologist, or the consultant. In terms of learning, I think that reviewing this volume must have earned me about 500 CPD points!

Dr Cook is to be congratulated on the production of *Cellular Pathology*, not least because such a book would usually be a multiauthor venture.

J CROCKER

Atlas of Peripheral Nerve Pathology. R King. (£125.00.) Arnold, 1999. ISBN: 0 340 58666 4

Written to help those involved in interpreting peripheral nerve biopsies this atlas deals with a subject largely unknown to the general pathologist. It is divided into two parts. The shorter first part includes most of the text, which here, as elsewhere, is clear and detailed. It covers normal structure, biopsy technique, artefacts produced by processing and handling, morphometry, and the changes caused by degeneration, regeneration, and demyelination. The second part describes aspects of nerve pathology. Four chapters relate to structure and address the pathological changes seen in the axon, Schwann cell, myelin, and extracellular space, respectively. Cellular infiltrations and parasitic, bacterial, and viral infections are considered next; a chapter on perineurial abnormalities follows and one on abnormalities of the endoneurial blood vessels ends the work. A written introduction, never more than two pages long, precedes the illustrations, which show resin embedded material as light or electron micrographs, and are large and clear. An appendix giving referenced details of processing schedules is followed by a comprehensive alphabetical list of 570 references, which includes some original descriptions. The index identifies each subject as a main entry, an inclusion in tables, and when mentioned as a feature of a differential diagnosis.

This atlas is a well structured and easily accessed source of much information that should be appreciated by neuropathologists in training and by more senior colleagues. It will help the general histopathologist attempting to interpret a nerve biopsy, and the clinician involved in nerve biopsy will also find much of practical value. It is a work that can be recommended to all those involved in peripheral nerve biopsy and should be available in all departments of neuropathol-

ogy and histopathology as a companion volume to the standard texts.

J E McLAUGHLIN

Calendar of events

Practical Adult Cardiovascular Pathology Course

6-8 November 2000, Royal Brompton Hospital, Imperial School of Medicine, National Heart and Lung Institute
Further details: Short Course Office, National Heart and Lung Institute, Dovehouse Street, London SW3 6LY, UK. (Tel +44 020 73518172; fax +44 020 73518246; email shortcourse.NHLI@IC.AC.UK)

Practice Guidelines for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

21-22 November 2000, Royal College of Pathologists, London, UK
Further details: Maureen Russell, Scientific Meetings Officer, Royal College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF, UK. (Tel +44 020 7451 6740; email www.rcpath.org)

Cytopathology Update: Making Cervical Cytopathology Work

7 December 2000, Royal College of Pathologists, London, UK
Further details: Maureen Russell, Scientific Meetings Officer, Royal College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF, UK. (Tel +44 020 7451 6740; email www.rcpath.org)

Diagnostic Gynaecological Pathology

13-15 January 2001, The Embassy Suites, Palm Desert, California, USA
Further details: Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115, USA. (Tel +1 617 432 1525; fax +1 617 432 1562; email hms-cme@hms.harvard.edu)

Urological Surgical Pathology for the Practising Pathologist

24-26 March 2001, Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa, Fort Myers, Florida, USA
Further details: Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115, USA. (Tel +1 617 432 1525; fax +1 617 432 1562; email hms-cme@hms.harvard.edu)

6th European Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care

29-31 March 2001, Bologna, Italy
Further details: BMA/BMJ Conference Unit, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR, UK. (Tel +44 020 7383 6409; fax +44 020 7383 6869; email Quality@bma.org.uk; website www.quality.bmj.org)