

## Book reviews

**The Pathology of Trauma, 3rd edition.** Mason JK, Purdue BN, eds. (£155.00.) Arnold, 2000. ISBN 0 340 69189 1.

This book covers all aspects of trauma, from statistical facts and figures to clinical and postmortem findings. It is divided into 31 chapters using situations in which trauma is experienced, which is a logical approach that allows an in depth discussion of each topic, but does mean that the pathological information is spread throughout the book. I do not think that this is a disadvantage, however, because the non-pathological information is both useful and extremely interesting. Topics range from the more mundane, such as vehicular injuries, firearm injuries, cutting wounds, and head injuries, to the more esoteric, such as major disaster pathology, injury in sport and recreational activities, mining injuries, and modern war wounds. There are a large number of contributors (42 in total) reflecting the wide range of skills used in the investigation of trauma, but the editing has ensured that there is a common layout and progression of information, making it easy to find the details that you seek. The references are numerous (about 50 or so in each chapter) and are up to date. Best of all, however, are the illustrations, which are also numerous and without exception of extremely high quality. In my experience, books describing gross pathology are often let down by out of focus, dark photographs that do not clearly illustrate the text. The photos in this book are beautiful (to the eyes of a pathologist!) and as gory as you would expect, given the title of the book.

This book is essentially a book of forensic pathology that also includes related clinical and scientific information, and as such would be an asset to any pathologist with a coronial or forensic practice. It is also a must for any mortuary or histopathology department.

D HOPSTER

**Tumors of the Gallbladder, Extrahepatic Bile Ducts and Ampulla of Vater. Atlas of Tumor Pathology.** Albores-Saveedra J, Henson DE, Klimstra DS. Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, 2000. ISBN 1 881041 58 1.

It is difficult to envision how one could practise the surgical pathology of neoplastic lesions and diseases without the fascicles of the *Atlas of tumor pathology* of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) on the bookshelf. It is now in its third series of publication and compared with the second edition of the fascicle on *Tumors of the gallbladder and extrahepatic bile ducts*, in this third edition tumours of the ampulla of Vater were added and the author list was extended with yet another recognised expert in the field from the USA, notably Dr David S Klimstra.

The first chapters of fascicle 27 deal with normality and histological classification, and subsequent chapters are dedicated to the tumour pathology of the different anatomical sites separately; that is, gallbladder, extrahepatic bile ducts, and ampulla. With some variation, the layout follows the well known structure used in the AFIP atlases of tumor

pathology and the different entities are discussed generally. There are sections on definition and nomenclature, general features, and clinical epidemiology, the gross anatomy, the microscopy, the ultrastructural and immunohistochemical findings, and biological behaviour and prognosis. In this third edition, an additional section on the molecular pathology of most entities has also been incorporated. The text is illustrated by high quality illustrations, mostly colour photo micrographs. At the end of each chapter, the references are subdivided according to the specific subheadings, which greatly facilitates their use. For the different anatomical sites, the minimal requirements of a standard surgical pathology report are summarised at the end of that particular chapter.

As mentioned in the beginning, the AFIP atlases of tumor pathology can be considered the mainstay of the day to day histopathological diagnosis of neoplastic disease and therefore these fascicles have to meet high standards of quality. The fascicle written by Albores-Saveedra, Henson, and Klimstra on tumours of the gallbladder, extrahepatic bile ducts and ampulla of Vater certainly does so, and the authors have done an excellent job. However, there is no mention of the Phrygian cap, potentially a tumour-like condition caused by congenital inward folding of the fundic mucosa and present in up to 6% of gallbladders. The adenoma-carcinoma sequence of the gallbladder receives a separate section, but surprisingly the adenoma-carcinoma sequence of the ampulla of Vater is only touched upon in general terms in the text, although in this type of tumour a true adenoma-carcinoma sequence similar to the large bowel seems to be relatively well established. The Spigelman classification that serves as a guidance for clinical management of peri-ampullary adenomas in patients with familial adenomatous polyposis is not provided. One will also search in vain for well articulated criteria to delineate tumours of the distal common bile duct, the ampulla, and the pancreatic head from each other when a peri-ampullary tumour is encountered, a distinction that nevertheless has important implications for tumour biology, as is well illustrated by the figure depicting the various survival curves of these different tumours. The value of p53 immunocytochemistry on brush cytology of biliary stenoses as a diagnostic adjunct to K-ras is not mentioned. Nonetheless, these are only minor criticisms and they are not meant to detract from this comprehensive work, which is well written, extensively illustrated, and adequately referenced. This book will be an invaluable asset and aid for pathologists at various levels of training and a "sine qua non" for the adequate sign out of tumours of the gallbladder, extrahepatic bile ducts, and ampulla of Vater.

G J A OFFERHAUS

**Atlas of Tumor Pathology: Tumours and Cysts of the Jaws.** Sciubba JJ, Fantasia JE, Kahn LB. (\$70.00.) Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, 2000. ISBN 1 881041 62 X.

This new edition of the AFIP *Atlas of Tumor Pathology* gives a broad overview on tumours and cysts of the jaws, in the systematic way that we are used to from the AFIP series. After an introduction on embryogenesis and development of the teeth and jaws, the classifications of odontogenic tumours,

jaw cysts, and bone lesions are described. This is followed by a thorough description of the various benign and malignant odontogenic, non-odontogenic, and fibro-osseous lesions of the jaws.

The atlas is richly illustrated with high quality clinical, radiographic, and microscopic pictures, showing the key features of the various lesions. This leads to an outstanding clinicopathological correlation, which is of major importance in this part of the skeletal system.

Apart from routine diagnostic procedures, if relevant, more advanced techniques, such as immunohistochemistry and molecular biology, are incorporated. Every chapter is completed with a selected list of references on each subject, containing the "classic" ones and more up to date references.

This atlas is an important resource, especially for pathologists dealing with head and neck pathology, although it could also be very useful for clinicians and radiologists working in this field.

J VAN DER WAL

## Calendar of events

*Full details of events to be included should be sent to Maggie Butler, Technical Editor JCP, The Cedars, 36 Queen Street, Castle Heddingham, Essex CO9 3HA, UK; email: maggiebutler@pilotree.prestel.co.uk*

### Histopathology of the Bone Marrow

3 October 2001, St Mary's Hospital, London, UK

*Further details:* The Academic Secretary, Department of Haematology, St Mary's Campus of ICSM, Norfolk Place, London W2 1PG, UK. (Fax +44 (0)20 7262 5418)

### 5th International Course on Bone Marrow Biopsy Pathology

Palermo, 3-6 November 2001

*Further details:* Vito Franco, Istituto di Anatomia Patologica, Università di Palermo, Italy. (Tel +39 091 6553534; fax +39 091 6553521; email: vfranco@unipa.it; website: www.unipa.it/bmcourse)

### Current Concepts in Surgical Pathology

12-16 November 2001, The Four Seasons Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

*Further details:* Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, PO Box 825, Boston, MA02117-0825. (Tel +1 617 432 1525; Fax +1 617 432 1562; email hms-cme@harvard.edu; web page http://www.med.harvard.edu/conted/)

### 41st St Andrew's Day Festival Symposium on Therapeutics

6-7 December 2001, Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, UK

*Further details:* Eileen Strawn, Symposium Coordinator. (Tel +44 0131 225 7324; fax +44 0131 220 4393; email 2.strawn@rcpe.ac.uk; website www.rcpe.ac.uk)