way. (For instance, the importance of specimen handling is emphasised but exact descriptions of smear preparation are not provided.) The final three chapters deal with principles of safe practice, including the role of clinical cytopathology in patient management, medicolegal considerations, and the contentious issue of the relative merits of fine needle aspiration and core biopsy. The intervening chapters are about specific areas of concern in practice, such as cystic lesions, lymphoid infiltrates and small round cell tumors.

It should be apparent that I like this book very much, and it does succeed in its purpose of restating the potential and problems of clinical cytopathology in a way that provides both orientation for the neophyte and advice for the practicing pathologist. Having said that, there are occasional jarring things about it. An inexplicable number of spelling errors are present, including one on the first page! A few sub-standard photomicrographs appear to have been gleaned from other sources, and other photomicrographs seem to be a “poor fit” with the findings described in the text.

But these are minor considerations. I intend to have trainees in my institution read the first few chapters several times during their time with the cytology service, and would certainly highly recommend this book to all practicing pathologists having any involvement with cytopathology.

William R Geddie

Gram-positive pathogens


When the journal solicits a book review from you, the e-mail contains the phrase, “as a result of your familiarity with the subject your name has been proposed as a potential author of a review”. To be honest, it was because of my unfamiliarity with the subject matter of this book that I agreed to do it. I have a background in research involving Gram-negative pathogens, so I thought it would be nice for a change to learn something about the other half of the bacterial world. The book also looks very impressive and would be nice for a change to learn some—

Diagnosis histopathology of breast disease

14–17 May 2007, Hammersmith Hospital (Imperial College), London

A 4-day course with the Harss specimen, fibro-epithelial, spindle cell and papillary lesions, proliferative lesions/carcinoma in-situ, sentinel lymph node biopsy and the impact of molecular genetics on diagnostic breast pathology. The faculty will include Anthony Douglas-Jones, Ian Ellis, Bharat Jassani, Andrew Lee, Sarah Pinder, Jorge Reis-Filho and Sami Shousha.

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The citations of figures 3 and 4 in the article by Johnston (Johnston SL. Biologic therapies: what and when? J Clin Pathol 2007;60:8–17.) should have been transposed. The citation for figure 3 should appear on page 9 and the citation for figure 4 on page 10.