

Book reviews

Neth, R. et al.: Modern Trends in Human Leukemia VII. Springer, Heidelberg, Berlin, New York 1987. 526 pages, 182 figures, DM 248,—

The book is the extensive report of an event. In the preface Rolf Neth, principal editor, writes: "The Wilsede Meetings were initiated in 1973 as an unusual experiment, and in the meantime the biennial symposium (most recent one in June 1988) has already come to constitute an established and successful tradition, and: both matter-of-fact discussion at a high scientific level and development of personal friendships have always characterized their singular atmosphere"

The book starts with three very important contributions: the Hans Eidig lecture by Robert Gallo, "Personal reflections on the origin of human leukemia," the Frederik Stohlmán, Jr. Memorial lecture by Harold zur Hausen, "Viruses in human Tumors," and by Donald Metcalf, "Hemopoietic growth factors and oncogenes in myeloid leukemia development." These lectures are reported in a state-of-the-art manner, using a personal style, and serve as milestones in the development of our understanding of human leukemia.

The sessions of the meeting serve as the backbone of the chapters in the book:

- New strategies in leukemia diagnostics and therapy with papers on non-Hodgkins lymphoma, HIV infection and osteosarcoma (The Wilsede Joint Meeting on Pediatric Oncology is also included). The accent is on autologous BMT and bone-marrow purging. An excellent paper is presented by R. Dopfer on unrelated bone-marrow donation. Papers on biological approaches to cancer therapy are also included.
- Cell biology: Growth factors, erythroid, macrophage, epidermal. Colony stimulating factors. Oncogenes. Transfection. DNA-mediated gene transfer. Membrane skeleton and nucleoskeleton. Lineage determination. Tumor heterogeneity and cancer clonality. Tissue disorganization and leukemia progression.
- Immunology: Tumor rejection. immunoglobulin rearrangements. T-cell epitopes and regulation of T-cell proliferation. Natural killer function activation. Tumor necrosis factor and Macrophage-dependent tumor cell killing. Recombinant vaccinia.
- Virology: Virological aspects of carcinogenesis. HTLV1, HIV: fine structure analysis, infection, neutralization, interaction of viral and cellular factors. Oncogenes and cancer genes.

The beauty and value of this book lie in its intellectual homogeneity. Discussions have a wider scope than matter-of-fact technical presentations. The final chapter is on repetition as the essence of life on earth: music and genes by S. Ohno. This is very significant for the entire volume: rich in ideas and specific information of what is going on in modern hematology, it brings us the message of pure research and its human impact.

M. E. Peetermans, Edegem (Belgium)

Fucharoen, S. et al.: Thalassemia: Pathophysiology and management 6, Part A. Alan R. Liss, Inc. New York 1987. 612 pages.

More than two years after the International Conference on Thalassemia was held in Bangkok (July 1985), the first part of the congress proceedings was published. The volume contains 84 contributions to the main topics, "Molecular biology and pathogenesis" and "Pathophysiology." The latter is divided into the following subtopics: molecular and cellular pathophysiology, clinical manifestations and hematological changes, cardiopulmonary defects, function of thrombocytes, hormones and minerals, and infection and immunity.

Corresponding to the wide spectrum of topics, the reader will find an abundance of information, most of which has been common knowledge for some time, however. It would have been desirable for the discussions on the corresponding lectures also to have been published. As it is, the congress proceedings remain a reference work and a collection of lectures from a congress in which 500 participants from 21 countries took part.

E. Kleihauer, Ulm

Fucharoen, S. et al.: Thalassemia: Pathophysiology and management, Part B. Alan R. Liss, Inc. New York 1987. 500 pages, \$ 160.00

This is the second part of the proceedings of the International Conference on Thalassemia, held in Bangkok from 30 June to 3 July, 1985. The book contains 64 contributions by participants from the Asian-Pacific region, from Europe, and from the USA. The papers cover the large spectrum of iron metabolism and chelation, pathology and management, future trends, geographic distribution, and the control of the disease.

Among other topics, special attention is paid to allogeneic bone marrow transplantation with prevention of graft-versus-host disease and to the thalassemia control programs of several countries. A comprehensive subject index concludes the volume. The proceedings are a valuable source of information for hematologists, pathologists, and for all physicians involved in the control of inherited disorders.

H. R. Marti, Aarau (Switzerland)