

## Immunobiology: The Immune System in Health and Disease (4th edn)

Charles A Janeway, Paul Travers, Mark Walport, J Donald Capra  
Churchill Livingstone 1999  
Price £29.95. Pp 635  
ISBN 0 443 6275 7

When the first edition of *Immunobiology* was released back in 1994 it had an immediate impact on the immunological community. A clear and accurate text able to inform undergraduate and seasoned immunologist alike, allied to brilliant diagrams with consistent colour-coded icons throughout made this the unique volume to take to that desert island, along with the eight discs, the Bible and Shakespeare. Five years on and a fourth edition is available, and it goes on getting better. The third edition saw a new author in Mark Walport to oversee the more clinical aspects of immunology and he is joined in the fourth edition by J Donald Capra of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, who brings fresh insight into antigen recognition and development in the B cell.

An important new addition is a chapter on cellular signalling in the lymphocyte. In just 30 pages all the major players in T and B cell signalling and their roles in development, activation, proliferation and apoptosis are covered with a clarity and precision that we come to expect from this textbook, and from a chapter under the watchful eye of Tony Pawson, Chris Goodnow and Doug Fearon. The chapter on manipulation of the immune system which includes immunosuppression, eradication of tumours, vaccination, DNA vaccines and novel adjuvants, is equally outstanding. It would not be unusual, in order to give a fully balanced review, to present a list of shortcomings, but this reviewer was unable to find any. *Immunobiology* is unquestionably the best available textbook in immunology.

Keith E Nye, *St Bartholomew's and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry*

## The Imaging of Infection and Inflammation

Edited by Peter H Cox and John R Buscombe  
Kluwer Academic Publishers 1998  
Price £92.00. Pp 240  
ISBN 0 7923 5087 1

Despite advances in treatment, infection remains a major health problem worldwide. This volume sets out to describe the current and potential applications of nuclear medicine techniques in the investigation of patients with infection or inflammatory diseases.

After an introductory chapter on infection in hospital, there are rather technical chapters on the radiopharmaceuticals, cell labelling and microdosimetry in labelled leucocytes. Subsequent chapters describe the application of these agents in the clinical setting. These deal in turn with the thorax, pyrexia of unknown origin, infection in patients with immune deficiency and multiorgan failure, inflammatory bowel disease, abdominal sepsis, bone and soft tissues and finally imaging of bacterial infection with a radiolabelled antibiotic. Each chapter provides an up-to-date and comprehensive review, extensively referenced.

There is a certain amount of repetition, partly as a result of contributions from multiple authors, and partly to the contribution of similar radiopharmaceuticals to different clinical settings. Positron emission tomography (PET) scanning is mentioned only briefly. There are innumerable typographical errors, which I find surprising in an era of electronic publishing. The table in the first chapter is mislabelled. There is no consensus on the use of 'PUO' and 'FUO', leucocyte and leukocyte. While illustrations are generally of high quality, some still show wax pencil marks used to specify which are to be used; surely these could have been removed.

Although aimed principally at those working in nuclear medicine, the clinical chapters will be of interest to those involved in the management

of patients with inflammatory and infectious diseases. The field is well reviewed elsewhere, and I would not recommend they buy their own copy.

Andrew Chippindale, *Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals Trust*

## Paediatrics and Child Health

Mary CJ Rudolf, Malcolm I Levene  
Blackwell Science 1999  
Price £24.95. Pp 384  
ISBN 0 865 42957 X

In many universities the amount of clinical time available to teach paediatrics has been reduced as a result of an ever-expanding curriculum. There has, therefore, been a great need for comprehensive and up-to-date textbooks suitable for the undergraduate. This book is firmly pitched at the medical student or GP VTS trainee and presents the 'core' knowledge of clinical paediatrics in a very effective manner. The text is excellent throughout and presented in a logical and consistent style.

The book is heavily illustrated with many 'at a glance' boxes, which contain a digest of all you need to know about a condition in note form related to a picture or drawing. The photographs, especially of skin rashes, are of high quality but the book is somewhat let down, to my eye, by almost surreal line drawing illustrations of children which in some examples verge on the grotesque. Many of these could have been replaced by simple clinical photographs.

Other specific criticisms are that there are several growth charts used as illustrations but in no case is the parental height plotted and the drawing of measurement of height shows poor measuring technique.

Overall, however, this is an excellent text book for the undergraduate which will rapidly become a rival to the current favourite, the *Illustrated Textbook of Paediatrics* by Lissauer and Claydon. Pity about the drawings though.

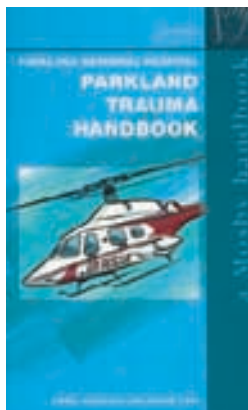
JKH Wales, *University of Sheffield*

## Parkland Trauma Handbook (2nd edn)

Edited by Fiemu Nwariaku, Erwin Than  
Mosby 1999  
Price £25.00. Pp 577  
ISBN 0 8151 2618 2

The Parkland Trauma Handbook was first published in 1994 and was an immediate success in the USA. The reasons were simple. It was small, compact and fitted neatly into the resident's pocket. More importantly, it was written by junior hospital doctors working in one of the leading trauma centres in the USA specifically for junior hospital doctors working elsewhere. It had the mark of 'street credibility' about it which was quickly recognized.

This new edition is to be welcomed. It retains its original format of short chapters packed with sound advice on what to do in every conceivable trauma situation. Reflecting the United States surgeons' responsibility for critical and intensive care of trauma victim, the new edition has several new chapters devoted to this field. In the UK, this book will prove invaluable for junior doctors working in all of the surgical specialities, accident and emergency medicine and intensive care. It



truly is a 'one-stop' vade mecum, particularly for those who do not encounter trauma on a regular basis. Although written primarily for a North American audience, there is little that is different in the fields of decision making and therapeutics for a UK reader. Perhaps the chapters on epidemiology and trauma systems are not relevant but they are of interest, reflecting the trauma pandemic underway in the USA.

Particular strengths include excellent algorithms, guidelines, listing and illustrations. Common practical procedures are well described. Chapters this reviewer found particularly pleasing and useful include those dealing with musculoskeletal injury and abdominal and thoracic injury. The chapter on burn injury, although excellent, will need to be read in the light of UK practice relating to classification and fluid resuscitation.

The list of references and recommended further reading are again very US-orientated and this will irritate some UK readers.

I was pressed to find a single significant reference from British authors or journals. However, this does not detract from a superb practical handbook. I recommend it to all whose duties bring them into contact with injured patients.

JM Ryan, *The Middlesex Hospital, London*