

## Book Reviews

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*H.S. Rosenberg*

### **Neoplasia in Infancy and Childhood**

Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology, vol. 9

Karger, Basel 1987

VIII + 248 pp.; SFr. 220.–/DM 263.–/US\$ 122.25

ISBN 3-8055-4373-5

This volume comprises 6 critical reviews on controversial aspects of diagnosis of several important neoplasias of infancy and childhood.

The book opens with biographical notes on R.M. Normann, a founder of Pediatric Pathology.

In the first chapter on histiocytosis X the introductory sections on definitions and relations to the immune system and the discussion of differential diagnosis and prognostic factors provide up-to-date summaries of the current state of thought. In the second chapter the histopathologies of fatal lymphohistiocytosis and fatal Letterer-Siwe are compared in order to derive characterizations of both disease entities. Taken together, the first two chapters demonstrate the complexities of the structure and function of histiocytes and their contributions to normal and abnormal immunological phenomena.

In the third chapter a practical approach to the characterization of leukemic cells is described and, in appendices, important technical details are indicated. By a critical evaluation of the relative importance, e.g. of ultrastructural or immunological methods, a selection of parameters is proposed. In addition, data illustrating new trends are summarized.

The fourth chapter is a review of the pathology of childhood osteosarcoma focused on practical aspects such as concepts of normal and neoplastic ossification, prerequisites for histopathological evaluation, classification, prognostic factors, local and distal spread, skip lesions, differential diagnosis and evaluation of the effect of chemotherapy.

The chapter on electron microscopy is a source of information on diagnostic contributions electron microscopy can make, e.g. to the differential diagnosis of Ewing's sarcoma of bone, to rhabdomyosarcoma, primitive soft tissue sarcomas, extraskeletal Ewing's sarcoma, osteosarcoma, tumors of proven or presumed neural origin and renal tumors. For quick reference a table summarizing the most important facts is provided. The final chapter on contributions of tis-

sue culture to the study of solid tumors of childhood is a concise review on basic aspects such as characterization of human tumor cells in culture and growth requirements as well as the use of short-term cultures and of established tumor cell lines.

All of the reviews are well illustrated and carefully documented. By providing selected morphological and biological information relevant for diagnosis and management they all are of interest to pathologists, pediatric oncologists, radiologists and surgeons.

*R. Spier, B. Griffiths, W. Hennessen (eds)*

### **Production and Exploitation of Existing and New Animal Cell Substrates**

Developments in Biological Standardization, vol. 60

Karger, Basel 1985

XIV + 546 pp.; SFr. 140.– / DM 168.– / US\$ 59.75

ISBN 3-8055-4043-4

This volume covers the Proceedings of the European Society for Animal Cell Technology (ESACT) and of the International Association of Biological Standardization (IABS) on the Production and Exploitation of Existing and New Animal Cell Substrates. The meeting was held in Gardone, Italy, in Mai 1984. It comprises the most actual topics of cell cultivation, such as establishment of new cell lines for the production of monoclonal antibodies, immunological mediators and vaccines. Furthermore, optimal growth conditions for laboratory and large-scale cultivations of cell lines in serum-supplemented and serum-free media are demonstrated. A number of contributions discuss the use of different microcarriers in cell cultivation and the production of monoclonal antibodies by immobilized hybridomas.

The present book demonstrates the progress made in the production of a number of biological products for human use by continuous cell lines and is of particular interest since immortalized cell lines replace increasingly other sources. The Proceedings represent the state of the art at the time of the meeting and are also valuable as a reference book for those who are interested in the production of biological compounds by cell lines.

K. Blaser, Bern