

## Book Reviews

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G. Möller (ed.)

**Population Dynamics of Lymphocytes**

Immunological Reviews, vol. 91

Munksgaard, Copenhagen 1986

233 pp.; SFr. 39.-

In the masterfully written first chapter Freitas, Rocha, and Coutinho state that 'the immune system represents a set of renewing cell populations, which continuously produces and loses cells in a dynamic equilibrium'. Different compartments of lymphoid cells 'feed sequentially into each other' and maintain the steady state. These are the stem cells in the bone marrow, the thymus, the peripheral pool of immunocompetent cells, and the antibody-producing end cells, i.e., the plasma cells. Freitas et al. discuss the properties of each population and their kinetics in depth. In the following chapters different aspects of the problem are expertly discussed on the basis of experimental results by McLennan et al., Miyasaka and Trnka, Pink, Scollay et al., Stutman, Sprent, and Morris. This important volume provides invaluable information concerning the diversity and adaptability of the immune system and is indispensable.

Paul Kallós, Helsingborg

Sudhir Gupta, Norman Talal

**Immunology of Rheumatic Diseases**

Plenum Publishers, New York 1985

XV+818 p.; US\$ 89.50

ISBN 0-306-41987-4

The editors state in their preface that we 'stand on the threshold of a new era in molecular medicine and clinical science'. As a clinical rheumatologist I was hoping to capture the excitement of this development, but was soon distressed by problems posed to the reader. Abbreviations, although explained, unnecessarily complicate the text, which is, furthermore, often interrupted by rows of references. In addition, some of the chapters could have been condensed without loss of information, while others seem to be too brief. It is to be hoped that these shortcomings will be eliminated in the next edition.

The book is divided into five sections. The first section deals with basic elements and mechanisms of the human immune response, such as immune response genes, lymphocyte subpopulations, autologous mixed lymphocyte reactions, interleukins, interferons and natural killer cells. These chapters are hard to read for non-immunologists, they are, however, very informative, and thorough study of them is rewarding. This applies first and foremost to an elegant and helpful overview of the array of lymphocyte markers, which makes the perusal of many papers in the literature difficult. The second section concerns autoimmunity. Rheumatoid factors and their possible pathogenic importance are discussed in detail. The four following chapters deal with the role of autoantibodies in connective tissue diseases. After an overview of some of the

new directions in this area, anti-DNA antibodies, neuron reactive antibodies and anti-phospholipid antibodies are discussed. The importance of the two last-mentioned antibodies is presently uncertain. A chapter on the heterogeneity of autoimmune responses offers exciting information, at least for those of us who believe that viral infection lies at the bottom of some rheumatic syndromes. Finally, immune response to collagen, a rather unexplored area, is discussed in this section. The third section is devoted to classical concepts of rheumatic diseases. The first chapter provides much new information on streptococcal antigens and on still unsolved problems concerning rheumatic fever. I do not understand why a chapter of 40 pages on gout has been included, despite the fact that it is expertly written. In the next chapter the new trends in research concerning rheumatoid vasculitis would have merited a more detailed discussion. In the chapter devoted to the role of immune complexes it should have been discussed if the search for them is useful in single cases. The fourth section on pathogenic mechanisms provides some excellent reviews on the present state of the art, for instance on cellular immune events in RA joints, complement components in rheumatic diseases and the role of neutrophil leukocytes in rheumatic manifestations. The fifth section on therapy gives a déjà vu feeling to the clinician. There are still no controlled double-blind study of the value of plasmapheresis. In the last chapter the disappointing side effects of total lymphoid irradiation should have been stressed.

The book as a whole provides a wealth of valuable information and all chapters are excellently referenced, the reference lists are updated to 1985. The editors and the 50 outstanding contributors are to be congratulated on creating this book, which must be included in every library serving clinical rheumatologists.

O. Nived, Lund

Frank J. Dixon (ed.)

**Advances in Immunology, vol. 38**

Academic Press, London 1986

X+420 pp.; US\$ 46.50/£ 39.-

ISBN 0-12-022438-0

The present volume contains seven expertly written and timely reviews. Philippa Marrack and J. Kaplan review the important subject of 'The antigen specific MHC-restricted receptor on T-cells'. The exhaustive contribution by R.H. Schwartz deals with the 'Immune-response genes of the murine MHC'. Croce and Nowell deal with the 'Molecular genetics of human B-cell neoplasia'. A most informative chapter by Carson and Freimark is devoted to 'Human lymphocyte hybridomas and monoclonal antibodies'. Rodgers et al. review the subject of 'Maternally transmitted antigen'. The contribution by Czop deals with 'Phagocytosis of particulate activators of the alternative complement pathway: effects of fibronectin'. The volume is warmly recommended.

Paul Kallós, Helsingborg

*Robin Nicholas*

**Hybridoma Technology**

An Annotated Listing of Key Papers 1975–1985

Mansell, London 1986

XV+198 pp.; £ 25.00

ISBN 0-7201-1798-4

Since Köhler and Milstein published their paper on 'Continuous cultures of fused cells secreting antibody of predefined speci-

ficity' in 1975, over 10,000 papers and books have been printed about these 'monoclonal antibodies'. The author of the present volume states that 'the aim of this book is to pinpoint the particularly outstanding papers published in English language journals in the past 10 years in the whole area of hybridoma technology'. Over 500 papers were selected and excellently abstracted. The volume provides valuable information and is a reliable guide in this important area of research. It is warmly recommended.

Paul Kallós, Helsingborg