

## Book reviews

**Immunoglobulin gene expression in development and disease.** Casali P, Siberstein LE, eds. (Pp 600; £144.50.) New York Academy of Sciences. 1997.

In the tradition of the series this volume provides a comprehensive review of activity at the forefront of its subject—as reported at the meeting held in September 1996. It is comprised of 90 multi-authored papers organised into nine parts covering 600 pages. It will be apparent that the meeting itself will have been an invaluable forum for interactions between investigators, however, it is a little more difficult to define the audience for the published proceedings. The individual reports are of detailed studies in relatively narrowly defined systems in an exciting and rapidly developing field. Undoubtedly, the participants will have moved on, substantially, from the position reported here and will have communicated new findings at other specialist meetings and, to some extent, in other publications. This volume will not, therefore, recommend itself to practitioners established in the field but would be invaluable to postgraduates or post-doc's contemplating entering it in the future, and academics providing advanced level courses.

Unfortunately, libraries are operating in an environment of proliferating specialist publications and ever more stringent budgetary controls. At £144.50 I do not feel that this volume will have a sufficient shelf-life to justify recommending it for purchase at my institution.

R JEFFERIS

**Molecular biology of multiple sclerosis.** Russell WC, ed. (Hard back; £60.00.) Wiley. 1996. ISBN 0 4719 6966 4.

This is a welcome and timely addition to the literature on multiple sclerosis. The book devotes 16 chapters to the pathogenesis of multiple sclerosis and one chapter to therapy. This is a fair reflection of current knowledge on multiple sclerosis and a reminder that until we know the exact molecular mechanisms underlying disease processes then it is very difficult to produce rational targeted therapy.

The book takes us on a journey from the basic pathological lesions through the molecular pathology of multiple sclerosis. It pays particular attention to the molecular biology of the various cell types that have been implicated in the molecular lesions and includes the role of immunological mechanisms and viruses. The book does not intend to be comprehensive, but each chapter provides a biblio-

graphy that will prove invaluable to readers who wish to pursue the subject in more depth. Perhaps a weakness of the book is one common to multi-author volumes. Namely, it reads like a collection of individual chapters rather than a complete story. There is, therefore, some element of repetition, but this format does allow the interested reader to dip into various chapters without having to read the entire book. Overall I found the book authoritative and stimulating.

E W HILLHOUSE

**A laboratory guide to biotin labelling in biomolecule analysis.** Meir T, Fahrenholz F, eds. (sFr 98; DM 118.) Birkhauser. ISBN 3 7643 5206 X.

This book describes almost everything about the use of biotin as a label for the analysis of biomolecules. As the title suggests, it is very much a laboratory "cookery book", explaining by example how to incorporate biotin into virtually every class of biological compound. It is, however, not limited to recipes alone but gives considerable details of the biochemistry of the processes involved. However, I would have liked to have seen something on the chemical synthesis of biotinylated peptides and oligonucleotides. These are a very useful source of ligands, especially any analogues of natural compounds and can enable biotin to be introduced in particularly useful and convenient positions.

The book is well laid out, with all the practical protocols on a pale grey background, which makes them easier to locate in the text. With the exception of the very first table, which is far too small, the figures and tables are clear and well presented. The troubleshooting section at the end of each chapter is a useful feature as are references to reagent lifetimes. The book is ideal for the laboratory considering using the power and selectivity of the biotin-avidin-streptavidin systems for the detection or recovery of biomolecules. If the required application is not mentioned in the book, there should be enough information to enable the design of a custom procedure to do the job.

J E FOX

## Correction

*HHV8 and Kaposi's sarcoma: a time cohort study.* M M Kennedy, S B Lucas, R R Jones, D D Howells, S J Picton, E E Hanks, J O'D McGee, J J O'Leary. *J Clin Pathol* 1997;50:96-100.

The outer primer sequence of ORF 25 should have read:

5'-AGGCAACGTCAGATGTGAC-3'  
5'-GAAATTACCCACGAGATCGC-3'

and not as published.

This follows an erratum published in the *Lancet* 1996;347:338-9. The data presented remain unchanged.

## Notices

### The myeloproliferative disorders

#### Pathogenesis and clinical management

Wednesday 2 July 1997

Royal College of Pathologists, London, UK

A one day symposium organised by the Royal College of Pathologists and the UK Myeloproliferative Disorders Study Group. The symposium is open to members of the college, trainee pathologists, and workers in other disciplines with an interest in the subject.

Fees: fellows/members £75; trainees/retired £45; non-members £100.

For further information and an application form contact the Scientific Meetings Officer, RCPATH, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF, UK. (Tel: 0171 930 5862 ext 24/25.)

### Second meeting of the European Study Group on Molecular Diagnostics

Wednesday 15 October 1997

Kurhaus Hotel, The Hague, Netherlands

Registration is free.

For further information contact Prof. Dr. M Altwegg, Department of Microbiology, University of Zurich, Gloriastrasse 30, CH-8028 Zurich, Switzerland. (Fax: +41 (1) 252 8107.)



## A laboratory guide to biotin labelling in biomolecule analysis

J E Fox

*Mol Path* 1997 50: 167

doi: 10.1136/mp.50.3.167-c

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<http://mp.bmj.com/content/50/3/167.3.citation>

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