Book review

Age-related factors in carcinogenesis. Edited by A Likhachev, V Anisimov, and R Montesano. IARC scientific publications No 58. Lyon: International Agency for Research on Cancer, 1985.

This report of a symposium held in Leningrad at the end of 1983 indicates how complex is the subject. Of the 43 participants, 31 were from Russia. The first paper was by Napalkov, the director of the Research Institute of Oncology in Leningrad and host to the meeting. He showed that in the USSR the incidence of cancers of the colon and breast had increased between 1970 and 1980 and cancers of the cervix and stomach had decreased. Voitenko considers that two factors are associated with stomach cancer; one accounts for cancer in younger people and the other for older populations. The high incidence of the disease in Japan is limited to the second factor. The paper by Peto, Parish, and Gray entitled "There is no such thing as aging and cancer is not related to it" showed, with data of Stenback and Arranto, that susceptibility to skin cancer in mice did not increase with age. Stenback and Arranto themselves showed this more clearly in another paper presented at the meeting. Papers from Japan and Russia reported on changes in immunological response with age. Cuzick showed that the incidence of mammary cancer was about a hundred times higher in woman aged 70 than women aged 20. That free radicals were involved in carcinogenesis was first shown by Emanuel of Moscow. Emanuel presented data on the effect of radicals on aging and incidence of cancer. A paper from Sweden showed that viruses may interfere with aging. A long communication by Barrett reported on multistage carcinogenesis in cell cultures. Other papers considered the role of DNA repair, the metabolism of foreign compounds, and the rehabilitation of old cancer patients.

The volume does not include any general summary of the discussion. The conclusion must be that although the incidence of cancer increase with age, this is due to factors which vary in different subjects and species.

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Notices

Control and prevention of runaway chemical reaction hazards, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 11-12 November 1986

Recent incidents in the chemical industry, such as the disasters at Bhopal and Mexico, have shown that safety requires the systematic evaluation of processes, the specification of safety measures, the implementation of measures on the plant, and their maintenance. This symposium will bring together the methods used in major chemical companies such as ICI, Ciba Geigy, Sandoz, Hoechst, and Bayer to evaluate and prevent runaway chemical reaction hazards. For further information, contact Fiona Spindlove, IBC Technical Services Ltd, Bath House, 56 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1. Telephone: 01-236 4080 Telex: 888870.

International Neurotoxicology Association (INA) 1st conference, Lunteren, The Netherlands, 10-16 May 1987

The main topics will be extrapolation from experimental models of neurotoxicity to risk assessment in man and common mechanisms in acute, short term, and long term neurotoxicity. Contributions are invited from the fields of neurochemistry, neurophysiology, neuropathology, and behavioural toxicology. For further information, contact Dr J Hooisma, Medical Biological Laboratory, TNO, PO Box 45, 2280 AA, Rijswijk, The Netherlands.