

interpretation, the other main topic is epidemiology and those working in health and safety at work.

The meeting will be of particular interest to representatives of authorities responsible for the establishment of occupational exposure limits or the definition of lists of occupational diseases, medical inspectors of workplaces, occupational physicians, safety engineers, representatives of the social groups, the social security institutions, and occupational epidemiologists.

Further information from: the Office for International Relations and Conferences, Adalbert-Stifter-Strasse 65, A-1200 Vienna, Austria. Tel. +43-1-33 111 - 537, Fax +43-1-33 111 469 email: presse@auva.or.at

### International Symposium on Good Occupational Health Practice and Evaluation of Occupational Health Services. 8-10 June 1998. Hanasaari Cultural Centre, Espoo, Finland

The symposium is organised by the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH), the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland, and the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH), Scientific Committee on Health Services Research and Evaluation in Occupational Health.

The aim of this symposium is to stimulate and to promote the international exchange of experiences on achieving good occupational health service practices and to promote development of concepts, strategies, and methodology in evaluating occupational health services (OHS). Topics included in this area are quality and effectiveness, multidisciplinary, flexibility and good practices with regard to needs of clients and consumers' demands, research on OHS as an advisory service contributing to rational decision making on national, regional, and local levels, as well as on the enterprise level or the OHS service unit level, and the interaction between scientific institutions, service providers, and the health service market. Considering the broad scope of the subject matter of the symposium, issues related to world wide trades and working life are also included.

The programme will include plenary lectures, oral and poster presentations, as well as panel discussions. The working language of the Symposium is English.

Topics include:

- Good occupational health practice, focusing on workplace evaluation and systems evaluation
- Keynote lecture: Global trends and developments in occupational health services (objectives and inputs); Jerry Jeyaratnam, ICOH, Singapore
- Keynote lecture: Good occupational health practices: Concepts and criteria; Frank van Dijk, The Netherlands
- Evaluation
- Keynote dialogue: Strategies and methods for scientific evaluation of occupational health services; Peter Westerholm, Sweden and Kaj Husman, Finland
- Future perspectives
- Keynote lecture: Challenges of occupational health services in changing societies and working life; Jorma Rantanen, Finland
- Other topics related to good occupational health practice and occupational health service evaluation

Further information from: Symposium on Good Occupational Health Practice and Evaluation of Occupational Health Services Finnish Institute of Occupational Health Symposium Secretariat, Inkeri Haataja Topeliuksenkatu 41 a A, FIN-00250 Helsinki, Finland; telephone: Int.+358-9-474 7470; fax: Int.+358-9-474 7548; e-mail: Inkeri.Haataja@occuphealth.fi www: http://www.occuphealth.fi/tiedotus

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## CORRECTIONS

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**Correlation between  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -HMPAO-SPECT brain image and a history of decompression illness or extent of diving experience in commercial divers TG Shields, PM Duff, SA Evans, HG Gemmell, PF Sharp, FW Smith, RT Staff, SE Wilcock (1997;54:247-253).**

The bottom row of table 2 should read Total II-V, not I-V. The address for S E Wilcock should be only the Hyperbaric Research Unit, Robert Gordon University, School Hill, Aberdeen AB9 1FR.

**Cancer mortality among magazine printing workers Danièle Luce, Marie-France Landre, Thierry Clavel, Isabelle Limousin, Sylvie Dimerman, Jean-Jacques Moulin (1997;54:264-7)**

Page 266 column 2 line 4 should read <1  $\mu\text{g}$ , not <1 g. Also in table 2 for oesophagus <1970, the expected number should be 0.20, not 2.20.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

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**Mechanisms of fibre carcinogenesis: IARC Scientific Publications No 140.** Edited by AB KANE, P BOFFETTA, R SARACCI, JD WILBOUR. (Pp 135; £45). 1996. Lyon: IARC. ISBN: 92832-2140-0.

This book represents a collection of reviews written by the participants in a workshop on the mechanisms of fibre carcinogenesis, held at the IARC in Lyon on 9-11 January, 1996. The goals of the workshop were twofold; to review and discuss the current knowledge on the mechanisms of fibre carcinogenesis, and to use this knowledge in the assessment of carcinogenic risks to humans or animals.

The primary outcome of the workshop was the consensus report, which is presented in the first part of the book, and was agreed by all the workshop participants. This report brings to light a surprising number of weaknesses and data gaps in the available literature on fibre characterisation, genotoxicity, cell proliferation or activation, and animal

studies. A prime example of such shortcomings is the general lack of information on the characterisation of fibre dose—that is, numbers, dimensions, surface area, chemistry, durability, and biopersistence—for most in vitro and in vivo studies. The report also discusses the relevance of mechanistic data from in vitro and in vivo assays for the evaluation of carcinogenic risk to humans and concludes with several recommended experimental studies which would provide additional data for the future assessment of fibre carcinogenicity.

The remainder of the book focuses on various aspects of mineral fibre carcinogenicity which were outlined in the consensus report, and such reviews express the opinions of their authors. Briefly, the paper by Kane provides a good discussion of the proposed five mechanistic hypotheses for fibre carcinogenesis. Fubini follows up on these hypotheses by examining the interactions between fibres and cells through the analysis of fibre parameters such as crystallinity, micromorphology, elemental analysis, solubility, and adsorption, which are often not considered by most investigators. The report by Jaurand provides cautious consideration to the limitations and feasibility of mutation and cell transformation assays for investigating the mechanistic effects of fibres. Topics presented by Driscoll focus on processes which may contribute to the neoplastic effects of various fibres and current issues such as signal transduction pathways, oxidative stress, antioxidant mechanisms, and protooncogene expression. Donaldson describes in detail the role of reactive oxygen species, cytokines, and growth factors in preneoplastic and fibrotic changes. The advantages and disadvantages of inhalation, intratracheal instillation, and intracavitary injection are reviewed by Oberdörster. The final review, by Davis, discusses the interactions of inhaled particulate matter along with fibres and the potential effects of mixed doses on fibre pathogenicity.

Overall this book is a collection of concise and up to date reviews on the subject of fibre (mainly asbestos) carcinogenesis. It is generally readable, clear, and informative. Its comprehensive tables and references provides a very good introduction for newcomers to the subject, as well as being an excellent resource for examination candidates. Unfortunately, the most appropriate readers (students) will be unable to afford its high price. The sections in the reviews on recommended experimental studies and unanswered questions are worthwhile to the professional audience. These sections state clearly the directions that research should take to close gaps in data and strengthen current information. There are several similar books on the market today which deal with the health effects and actions of mineral dusts; this book will be of interest to those investigators who work predominately with asbestos fibres.

KELLY ANN BÉRUBÉ

**Immunopathology of Lung Disease** Edited by RICHARD L KRADIN, BRUCE WS ROBINSON (pp 578; £87.99) 1997. Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann. ISBN: 0-7506-9282-0.

This is the first comprehensive text book on the immune responses of the lung in health and disease since *Immunology of the Lung and Upper Respiratory Tract*, edited by John Bienenstode, was published in 1984. The book

opens with a chapter on pulmonary immunity and finishes with a detailed description of present day techniques of molecular biology and their potential importance in lung immunology; in between are 24 chapters of more or less equal length covering topics from the prevalence and mechanisms of asthma to rare lung diseases. An unexpected omission is an introductory chapter on the anatomy and cellular constituents of the respiratory tract which would have been helpful for the reader more familiar with immunology than lung pathology.

The editors are to be congratulated in persuading so many of their colleagues to contribute. However, there seem to have been few attempts to avoid repetitions within the individual chapters so that, for example, in a chapter on sarcoidosis yet another description of the functional activities of macrophages deflects the reader's attention from the important finding that in this condition cells obtained by bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL), unlike in other interstitial lung diseases, parallel those present within the alveolar spaces both functionally and phenotypically.

An excellent chapter is the review on acute pulmonary inflammation by Doerschuk and her co-workers which most lucidly describes the processes involved in neutrophil migration and transit, the expression of adhesion molecules in response to differing stimuli, and the mechanisms leading to sequestration of cells in the pulmonary vasculature. Another outstanding chapter is that by Holgate and Synek which, as well as a historical overview of asthma, discusses how asthma extends beyond disordered smooth muscle function and occurs in association with other atopic diseases. It includes interesting information on recruitment and upregulation of endothelial adhesion molecules in allergic inflammatory responses and on the capacity of human mucosal mast cells to generate pleiotropic cytokines.

The quality of other chapters varies. With respect to occupational diseases I was somewhat surprised although naturally delighted to find, in the review of asbestos related lung

diseases by Kagan and Brody as well as on the front cover, reproductions of photographs of rat alveolar macrophages used in my PhD thesis. However, those studies were performed a quarter of a century ago, suggesting the need for a new approach in this area of research. In relation to the human data presented in the review, and keeping in mind present postulates relating to fibre persistence, it is unfortunate that the authors were unable to provide information of type of asbestos or exposure years. The authors discussing mesothelioma (chapter 23) advocate new immunotherapy and gene therapy although there is no evidence that immunotherapy has been successful in the treatment of other lung tumours and furthermore, patients with mesothelioma do not generally present at an early stage. A more comprehensive and well documented view was presented in the chapter on silicosis.

The editor's stated aims have been to present fundamental issues of pulmonary immune responses and immune diseases based on new insights into host immune responsiveness. Perhaps different organisation of the chapters would have facilitated these aims. At present the organisation of the book does not allow possible links, or comparisons, on the role of alveolar macrophages as propounded by Holt's group in chapter 4 with that described by Kagan and Brody in chapter 21. Chapter 19 on HIV which clearly identifies and discusses the threat of tuberculosis is separated by four chapters from a thorough review on the immunopathology of tuberculosis, including one chapter concerned mainly with animal models of parasitic infestations; idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (chapter 8) is sandwiched between chapters on asthma and hypersensitivity pneumonitis and so on. A more judicious collating of the various chapters would have ensured the reader's attention throughout.

K MILLER

**Hazardous Chemicals: Desk Reference, 4th ed.** Edited by R J LEWIS. (pp 1644; £89.00). 1997. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold. ISBN: 442 023227.

This is probably the best single volume reference work on the toxicology of chemicals currently available. The data presented have been extracted from the well known *Dangerous Properties of Industrial Chemicals* (9th ed). Data on more than 5000 compounds and preparations are presented: each entry being in a consistent and helpful format. For the occupational physician the provision of OSHA, ACGIH, and DFG (MAK) values where available will be invaluable. Also, CAS numbers and details of current carcinogenicity evaluations are provided. An exhaustive list of synonyms (over 100 for malathion) is given for each compound as is a short description of its physical characteristics. Some of the descriptions of physical characteristics are perhaps eccentric: few will meet ozone as a blue or violet-black solid or even as a dark-blue liquid! For the physician the safety profile will probably be the most used part of any entry. This profile is telegraphic in style but packs in a lot of useful information. No information on case management is provided. A valuable feature of this book is that entries are provided for groups of compounds—for example, carbonates, chlorates, esters. Of course the value of a brief safety profile of a group of compounds as diverse as esters can be questioned but I have found these general entries informative.

The index is heavily cross referenced and occupies 367 pages each of two closely printed columns.

As to single volume competitors: the *Merck Index* is the most obvious. Merck offers wider coverage but less information of immediate use to the occupational physician.

As a book to turn to when asked the symptoms likely to be produced by a compound of which you have never heard this is excellent. Good value at £89.00

R L MAYNARD