
BOOK REVIEWS

Birkhauser Dictionary of Human Biology – Birkhauser Wörterbuch der Humanbiologie; English-German/Deutsch-English

(Reuter, P., and Reuter, Ch., eds., Birkhauser Verlag AG, Basel-Berlin-Boston, 2000, 1008 p.)

The “Birkhauser Dictionary of Human Biology” of 2000 is the most comprehensive English-German/Deutsch-English dictionary on the international market. More than 60,000 entries and subentries with some 150,000 translations and an extensive appendix with abbreviations, *terminologia anatomica*, and important figures provide users with an unrivaled coverage of medical, biological, and related bioscientific areas. The dictionary excels through a harmonious synthesis of biomedical and general bilingual dictionaries, making it the ideal choice for users from both scientific and linguistic fields. Unlike other, more basic technical dictionaries, the “Birkhauser Dictionary of Human Biology” is marked by a first class linguistic and lexicographic treatment and offers additional features, such as syllabification and pronunciation

that help in achieving a very high user friendliness and user satisfaction.

Since 1989 the authors have built up the most comprehensive medical and scientific bilingual database. Peter and Christine Reuter, physician and translator by professions, lived and worked in the United Kingdom for ten years before moving to Florida, USA. They have already published more than a dozen dictionaries and CD-ROMs. Reviews of these dictionaries in German and international journals have been outstanding (“Reuter/Reuter volumes will prove indispensable for medical translators...” Per. N. Dohler, American Translators Association, *Chronicle*) and it is certain that the new “Birkhauser Dictionary of Human Biology” will be the standard for all bilingual biomedical dictionaries.

Progress in Inflammation Research; Novel Cytokines Inhibitors

(Higgs, G., and Henderson, B., eds., Birkhauser Verlag AG, Basel-Berlin-Boston, 2000, 280 p.)

Cytokines have become established as key mediators of the signs and symptoms of inflammatory diseases such as arthritis, dermatitis, asthma, and multiple sclerosis. Furthermore, they are involved in the cascade of events leading to cardiovascular shock and are major regulators of the function of immune cells.

This book reviews recent advances in the development of new anti-inflammatory drugs. It addresses different therapeutic intervention possibilities for new drugs, such as the cellular source of cytokines, specific

receptors which induce cytokine synthesis, intracellular regulators of cytokine gene induction and expression, secretion and activation of cytokines, cytokine receptors and signaling pathways from these receptors. Accordingly, experts were drawn from different backgrounds including academic research institutes, the pharmaceutical industry and clinical pharmacology. In each area, the opportunities for drug development are highlighted and where possible, clinical data is reviewed.

Progress in Inflammation Research; Inflammatory Processes: Molecular Mechanisms and Therapeutic Opportunities

(Letts, L. G., and Morgan, D. W., eds., Birkhauser Verlag AG, Basel-Berlin-Boston, 2000, 160 p.)

In October 1998 many of the key leaders of new drug discovery for inflammatory diseases gathered at Hershey, Pennsylvania for the 10th International Conference of the Inflammation Research Association. The Conference was held over a five day period and provided a stimulating environment for the open exchange of important advances in basic inflammation research as well as new drug discovery and development. This book encompasses some of the highlights of several presentation made at the Conference. It contains some of the latest and important developments in the field of inflammation research.

Topics include the status of eotaxin and chemokines in asthma and allergy, signal transduction and regulation of diverse mediators such as the JNK group of MAP kinases, TNF and IL-1 signaling of NF- κ B as well as AP-1, macrophage metalloproteinases, lymphotoxin, and further insights into the role of MCP-1 in disease. Also discussed are drug targets in rheumatoid and osteoarthritis, fibrotic diseases, tumor suppression, and transplant wound repair, skin inflammation, angiogenesis, and gene expression.

Progress in Drug Research, Vol. 55

(Juker, E., ed., Birkhauser Verlag AG, Basel-Berlin-Boston, 2000, 344 p.)

“Progress in Drug Research” is a prestigious book series which provides extensive expert-written reviews on a wide spectrum of highly topical areas in current pharmaceutical and pharmacological research.

Founded in 1959 by its current editor, the series has moved from its initial focus on medicinal chemistry to a much wider scope. Today it encompasses all fields concerned with the development of new therapeutic drugs and the elucidation of their mechanisms of action, reflecting the increasingly complex nature of modern drug research. Invited authors present their biological, chemical, biochemical, physiological, immunological,

pharmaceutical, toxicological, pharmacological, and clinical expertise in carefully written reviews and provide the newcomer and the specialist alike with an up-to-date comprehensive list of prime references. Each volume of “Progress in Drug Research” contains fully cross-referencing indices which link the book together, forming a virtually encyclopedic work. The series thus serves as an important, time-saving source of information for researchers concerned with drug research and all those who need to keep abreast of the many recent developments in the quest for new and better medicines.

Progress in Inflammation Research; Cellular Mechanisms in Airways Inflammation

**(Page, C. P., Banner, K. H., and Spina, D., eds., Birkhauser Verlag AG,
Basel-Berlin-Boston, 2000, 376 p.)**

Airways inflammation is a complex biological phenomenon resulting from the recruitment and activation of numerous cell types. Airways inflammation contributes to the pathophysiology of airways disease. An understanding of the mechanisms that regulate inflammatory cell function is essential for the development of novel anti-inflammatory drugs for the treatment of common respiratory diseases such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD). This book provides a collec-

tion of valuable reviews on the major inflammatory cells involved in airways disease and examines the pharmacology of current anti-inflammatory drugs used in the treatment of airways disease. Moreover, an insight into the development of emerging drug therapies is also highlighted.

This book is a must for the library of any researcher or clinician interested in the pathophysiology of airways disease.

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of Vitamin B6 and PQQ-dependent Proteins

**(Iriarte, A. J., Kagan, H. M., and Martinez-Carrion, M., eds.,
Birkhauser Verlag AG, Basel-Berlin-Boston, 2000, 400 p.)**

The most recent information on proteins dependent upon Vitamin B6, pyrroloquinoline quinone (PQQ), or other quinones for function are included in this volume. It is a compilation of recent advances in the understanding of these proteins' structures, mechanisms of action, and their biological roles and functions. In addition, the book contains sections devoted to the mechanisms of folding and to addressing the molecular physiology and pathology

of these families of proteins, which are of intense biomedical interest. Emerging information regarding the participation of these proteins in enzymatic activity and their significance in biotechnology application, such as the use of specific inhibitors, is also included. The topics treated comprise genetic regulation, evolutionary and cell biological aspects, as well as the latest information on structures and mechanisms operating in these proteins.

Milestones in Drug Therapy; Methotrexate

(Cronstein, B. N., and Bertino, J. R., eds., Birkhauser Verlag AG, Basel-Berlin-Boston, 2000, 252 p.)

This book provides multidisciplinary reviews of the mechanism of action and uses of methotrexate in the treatment of cancer, psoriasis, gynecologic, and inflammatory diseases.

The intended audience is composed of clinicians involved in the care of patients suffering from oncologi-

cal, gynecologic, rheumatic diseases as well as scientists involved in research into the pathogenesis and treatment of these diseases. This book is unique in that it provides a single, state-of-the-art source for information regarding the mechanism and use of methotrexate in many different areas of medicine.