Tumors of the Lung

B. Mackay, J. Lukeman and N. Ordenez 1990. 432 pp. ISBN 0721658075. £46.

IN THIS compact volume MacKay, Lukeman and Ordonez provide a remarkably comprehensive account of their subject, and one or two others as well for it deals with tumours of the pleura, chest wall and mediastinum in addition to tumours of the lung. The literature survey is excellent and the many illustrations are of a high quality. Apart from a few useful diagrams, the illustrations are largely of microscopic preparations — cytological, histological, immunocytochemical and ultrastructural, with the last being particularly well represented.

The book starts with a comprehensive account of the normal respiratory tissues. Chapter 2 deals with the staging of lung cancer and quite sensibly reproduces Mountain's paper (*Chest* 89, 225S–233S, 1986) which remains the standard article on this subject. Chapter 3 deals with fine needle aspiration biopsy and covers both the technique of obtaining the biopsy and its interpretation. Chapter 4 deals with atypical and false positive diagnoses in pulmonary cytology and here the authors cover many of the non-neoplastic diseases of the lung in commendably succinct fashion. Chapter 5 deals with premalignant lesions and chapters 6, 7, 8 and 9 with the main histological types of carcinoma of the lung. Succeeding chapters deal with carcinoid tumours, uncommon lung tumours, tumours of the pleura and chest wall, and tumours of the mediastinum. Individual uncommon lung tumours are dealt with very briefly and the diagnostic histopathologist may find this the least satisfactory component of the book. The final chapter deals with technical procedures for lung tumour specimens and there is then an appendix on techniques and procedures. Both these sections will be of value to the practising pathologist.

This book is a valuable addition to the field and will be of interest to all who deal with lung tumours, particularly pathologists, thoracic surgeons, radiologists, oncologists and radiotherapists. Its shelf price represents excellent value.

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News

EORTC General Assembly—1991
Report on Basic Science Research Groups

Cancer research is complex because not only do the cancers of each tissue have different biological properties (thus requiring different approaches to detection and therapy) but also a single cancer can be a mixture of tumour cells at different stages of differentiation. For this reason, cancer research teams must be multi-disciplinary in terms of background, yet all members need to have an interest in the overall goals of improved cancer treatment, earlier detection and reduced incidence.

Over the years, EORTC activities have attracted the interests of many basic science research groups who are interested in seeing laboratory research adapted through to the level of cancer patient management. These groups have been brought together to form four basic research groups: the Cell Culture and Characterisation Group, the Screening and Pharmacology Group, the Pharmacokinetics and Metabolism Group and the Receptor Study Group.

These groups have collaborated well with each other and with some of the clinical cooperative groups. However, the establishment of the Research Branch (into which the Basic Science Research Groups are to be incorporated) has made it clear that publicity of the groups activities was insufficient on two counts—one, opportunities for collaboration with the clinical groups were being missed; two, the scientific world was not fully aware of the good basic research and essential standardisation of methodologies being done under the EORTC umbrella.

The basic research groups strongly support increased publicity including more regular use of the News and Views section of the *European Journal of Cancer*. They also hope to increase interaction with the *Education Branch* to bring their research activities to a greater audience.

Cell Culture and Characterisation Group

This group (formerly the Clonogenic Assay and Screening Group) is involved in *in vitro* studies of the biological activity of a variety of anticancer agents. Of the agents evaluated recently, the work on GM-CSF in modulating tumour growth has just been published in *European Journal of Cancer*. Current work includes study of the activities of two new agents taxol and taxotére, both of which show preliminary activity in platinum-resistant ovarian cancer. This work obviously involves collaboration with the Gynecology Group and the Early Clinical Trials Group.

Screening and Pharmacology Cooperative Group

The primary aim of the SPG is the identification and evaluation of potential anti-cancer agents. This is frequently a multi-centered approach encompassing a large range of *in vivo* and *in vitro* model systems. The workings of the SPG differ from that of many other groups in two significant ways. Firstly, membership is by peer invitation and, secondly, the meetings, which are conducted using a "round table" workshop format, are held under a confidentiality agreement signed by all those present in order to protect agents not yet covered by established patents. The membership is a balance of chemists, biologists and clinicians with an interest in drug development. The close collaboration of chemists and biologists facilitates structure/activity studies and analogue development to ensure that only agents with real potential are progressed to clinical trial. This critical evaluation process, invariably involving several membes in a considerable amount of time and effort, nevertheless frequently results in negative data and compound being rejected.

One current activity involves two chemical centres in a programme to link mitosines to steroids as ways of targetting bioreductive anticancer agents. Two further centres are involved in anticancer and toxicity studies on these agents. The SPG works closely with the New Drug Development Office and other research groups, particularly the PAMM group, where members of SPG are involved in collaborative studies on the mechanism

The European School of Oncology

1992 FORTHCOMING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

1st-2nd March
Site: Vienna, Austria
Anticancer-therapy Related Toxicities
G. Schwartsmann (NL), M. Aapro (CH), C. Dittrich (AT)

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30th March-3rd April
Site: Orta San Giulio, Italy
Leukaemias
R. Zittoun (FR), E .J Freireich (US)

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2nd-3rd April
Site: Monte Verità, Switzerland
Therapeutic Strategies in Cancer Pain Control
E. Alon (CH)

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2nd-5th April
Site: New York, USA
Pain and Symptom Control
K. Foley (US)

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5th-11th April
Site: Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Medical Oncology
H. Pinedo (NL), J. Schornagel (NL)

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6th April-10th April
Site: Orta San Giulio, Italy
Chest Tumours
H. Hansen (DK)

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27th-29th April
Site: Orta San Giulio, Italy
Molecular Biology for Clinicians
A. Horwich (GB)

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27th-29th April
Site: San Servolo Island, Italy
Neuro-Oncology
H. Herrmann (DE), J. Posner (US)

4th-9th May
Site: Ankara, Turkey
Paediatric Oncology
P. Voûte (NL), M. Buyukpamukçu (TR)

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11th-13th May
Site: Monte Verità, Switzerland
Secretaries in Oncology
L. Minnen (BE)

***

14th-15th May
Site: New York, USA
Conservative Treatment in Breast Cancer
D. Kinne (US), U. Veronesi (IT)

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25th-26th May
Site: San Servolo Island, Italy
Quantitative Pathology in Clinical Oncology
P. van Diest (NL), J. Lindholm (SE), A. Weger (SE)

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25th-30th May
Site: Warsaw, Poland
Lymphomas
M. Whitehouse (GB), J. Meder (PL)

***

24th-26th June
Site: San Servolo Island, Italy
IL-2 and Lymphocytes in Haematologic Malignancies
A. Fefer (US), R. Mertelsmann (DE)

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6th-10th July
Site: Orta San Giulio, Italy
Colorectal Cancer
J.D. Hardcastle (GB), N. Williams (GB)

***

13th-15th July
Site: Brussels, Belgium
The Scientific Writer, Editor, Referee or Publisher
D. McNamee (GB)

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of action of the lead bioreductive indoloquinone EO9 and its analogues.

PAMM group

This group develops novel anticancer agents on the basis of sound pharmacological principles. It was initially formed to fill an important gap in the area of analytical methodology, formulation, pharmacokinetics and metabolism. These important activities are continuing. At the same time, there is an increasing committment to new developments in molecular pharmacology, including the application of new techniques and the exploitation of exciting discoveries in cell biology. The group is evaluating pharmacokinetically-guided dose escalation to reach maximum tolerated dose rapidly but safely in phase 1 trials. There is considerable interest in new drug design. Collaborative work with the SPG is very active in the area of bioreductive agents such as EO9, particularly with respect to molecular enzymology. The PAMM group has a particular interest in cell membrane and signal transduction as targets for anticancer agents. In this, it is working closely with the Receptor Study Group, in addition to the regular collaboration with the NDDO and ECTG.

Receptor Study Group

The Receptor Study Group began life as a Quality Assessment Group to ensure that steroid receptor assays were as equivalent as possible in all laboratories doing assays for patients entering EORTC trials. This involved development not only of quality control schemes but also of collaborative projects to determine the clinical value of particular receptor concentrations and the equivalence, or otherwise, of new technologies compared with the established method—both for clinical and biological value. Other receptors (EGF receptor, *cerb*B 2, etc) have now acquired some clinical significance but, again, their value is dubious until proper quality control is accepted by all the laboratories involved. We have just completed a workshop (to be published) to ensure common methodologies for several receptor and related gene/gene product assays. Studies on blocking of ligand binding and tyrosine kinase activities will be carried out in collaboration with the SPG and PAMM groups. At all stages, standardisation of assays will be critical. The clinical potential of *cerb*B 2 will be explored in collaboration with the Gynecological and Breast groups. The potential of TGFα/TGFβ interaction will be studied with the GI group. A separate collaboration with the Epidemiology Branch is allowing particular risk factors for different cancers to be assessed, for the first time, in relation to different biological sub-groups within particular cancers.

Robin Leake (Receptor Study Group)
on behalf of John Double (SPG Group),
Maurizio D'Incalci (PAMM Group)
and Matti Aapro (Cell Biology Group).

EACR-II—The European Association for Cancer Research Meet in Italy

The European Association for Cancer Research held its 11th biennial meeting in Genoa on 3–6 November, 1991, following the European Conference on Clinical Oncology (ECCO-6) in Florence (27–31 October, 1991), and preceding the Joint Conference between the American Association for Cancer Research and the EACR on "Concepts and Molecular Mechanisms of Multistage Carcinogenesis" in Santa Margherita (6–9 November, 1991). Our hosts in Genoa were Professor Leonardo Santi (Chairman of the National Scientific Committee) and Dr Claudio Lombardo (Chairman of the Local Organising Committee) and their respective committees, and around 600 cancer researchers from Europe and beyond responded to their invitation to attend the scientific meeting.

The high standards of scientific presentations which we have come to expect at EACR meetings were maintained, and the abstracts of delegates' contributions have already been published in a recent issue of this journal (*Eur J Cancer*, 27, Supplement 3, 1991). In addition, review lectures and the Muhlbock Memorial Lecture on "Cell Proliferation in Carcinogenesis and in Malignant Tumours" by Professor Olav Hilmar Iverson will be featured in the regular issues of the journal.

The future activities of the Association were the subject of considerable debate at our various committee meetings, and the tragic events in Yugoslavia necessitated a reappraissal of the programme of our meetings. It has been planned that EACR-12 would be held in Dubrovnik in October, 1992, and it was with deep regret that the decision to postpone a meeting in Dubrovnik had to be taken. The formal elections of our Members of Council and Officers and Members of the Executive Committee were to be held in Dubrovnik so that it was clearly essential to make arrangements for the next meeting of the EACR as soon as possible. The Belgian Association Against Cancer proposed a solution to our constitutional difficulties with the invitation to join with them in celebrating the 10th Anniversary of their Association at a meeting in Brussels in early 1993. This generous offer was welcomed, and formally accepted by the General Assembly of the EACR.

1993 is projected to be an important year for the Association—in November, the ECCO-7 meeting will be held in Jerusalem organised by the Federation of European Cancer Societies and the EACR proposes to join fully in representing basic science in cancer research at this meeting. It is hoped that this will provide further opportunities for developing joint initiatives with societies involved in all clinical aspects of research and treatment of cancer. Members of the Association will be circulated with information concerning these meeting as and when it becomes available.

Already in 1992, it is proposed that the Association will contribute a joint programme of workshops with the European Society for Medical Oncology starting at the XVIIth ESMO Congress in November in Lyon. Our association is joining with the Task Force of the Research Branch of the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer at a meeting on "Cytokines and Growth Factors in Cancer" (Innsbruck—11–14 March, 1992). Also in 1992, the Association will continue in its sponsorship of meetings relating to cancer research including a meeting on "Adjuvant Therapy in Primary Breast Cancer" (St Gallen—26–29 February, 1992) and an International Workshop on Carcinoma-Associated Mucins in Cambridge (August 1992).

At the Meeting of the General Assembly, our members were informed of the appointment of several special committees with responsibilities for developing specific initiatives. These included a Committee for East European Affairs charged with responding to the changing situations in the east and with exploring the opportunities for developing collaborative research. Committees were also appointed to oversee the forthcoming elections in the EACR, and to re-examine our Consti-