

The book deals with mesothelioma from three angles. It deals extensively with the mineralogy and epidemiology to help us appreciate the aetiopathology of the condition. It highlights the clinical presentation and diagnostic problems and stresses the poverty of therapeutic options that exists to this day. The book has a useful section on the important medico-legal issues of the disease and stresses the major social implications of a large close-knit cohort of asbestos exposed people, watching their colleagues being picked out one by one to suffer and die from this dreaded disease while they wait in fear for their turn.

This 383-page book is devoted entirely to one disease and does justice to the difficult subject. The diagnostic problems in malignant mesothelioma have, however, been somewhat understated perhaps because the authors work in centres which see a large number of patients with this condition. They have available to them experienced and expert staff which may not be available to clinicians elsewhere who see the occasional case. Diagnosis under these conditions can be very difficult. This can be used to make a case for having a few designated centres to diagnose and indeed treat this condition. The other criticism of this book, if criticise one must, is the pessimism with regard to treatment. No disease is untreatable. With a positive approach to its treatment and despite early failures, a suitable treatment

schedule and even a cure should ultimately become available. It would have helped if this book had contributed positively to this approach to the disease especially by those with a special interest in it.

Notwithstanding the above comments, this is indeed an excellent book on a difficult and depressing subject. Every clinician dealing with the disease will want to read it and it should be available for reference in all units that may see the condition in their practice, however rarely. There is still an awful lot of asbestos in ships and buildings and power plants around the world and the long latent period will ensure that this disease will not be eradicated for many decades to come. This book should stimulate further work in the clinical and laboratory setting for the good of the unfortunate victims of this terrible disease.

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News

Experimental Haematology

The 22nd annual meeting of the International Society for Experimental Haematology will be held in Rotterdam between 22–26 August 1993. Details may be obtained from the scientific secretariat, Dr Daniel den Hoed Cancer Center, Department of Haematology and BMT, P.O.Box 5201, 3008 AE Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Tel: (31) 10439-1797, Fax: (31) 10484-2008.

Steroid Action Symposium

An international symposium entitled Recent Advances in Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology will be held in Seefeld from 30 May to 2 June 1993. Further details may be obtained from Dr J.R. Pasqualini, C.N.R.S. Steroid Hormone Research Unit, Foundation for Hormone Research, 26 Boulevard Brune, 75014 Paris, France. Tel: (331) 45 39 91 09, Fax: (331) 45 42 61 21.

Communication Skills

The Cancer Research Campaign Communication and Counselling Research Centre will be holding a number of 1-day courses on communication skills for senior oncologists during March (1–3), April (26–28) and May (19–21) 1993. One of the aims of the course is to provide feedback to participants regarding their skills at communicating with patients. For further

information contact Dr Lesley Fallowfield, CRC Communication and Counselling Research Centre, London Hospital Medical College, Turner Street, London E1 2AD. Tel/Fax: (071) 247-7503.

Somatic Cell Gene Therapy

As part of its 175th anniversary year programme, the New York Academy of Sciences will hold a symposium on strategies, advances and applications of human gene therapy in Washington DC, on 26–30 June 1993. Further details can be obtained from the Conference Department, New York Academy of Sciences, New York 10021, U.S.A. Tel: (212) 838 0230, Fax: (212) 888 2894.

Screening Methodology

On the 4–5 February 1993 in Paris the European Society of Mastology will hold a consensus conference on screening methodology and management of occult breast carcinomas. The main themes will be the European consensus on screening techniques, therapeutic attitudes regarding lesions discovered through screening, treatment of occult cancers and the role of the general practitioner in screening. For further details contact

Jean-Yves Petit, Institute Gustave-Roussy, 94805 Villejuif Cedex, France. Tel: (33) 1 45 59 43 30, Fax: (33) 1 45 59 63 83.

Cancer Prevention

The 8th international symposium on prevention and detection of cancer entitled Cofactor Interactions and Cancer Prevention will be held on 17–19 March 1993 in Nice. The symposium has been scheduled to follow a meeting on Genetic Factors in Predictive and Preventive Oncology planned for the same venue on 14–16 March. Details of both symposia can be obtained from Mme F. Fein, Symposium Centre Antoine-Lacassagne, 36 Voie Romaine, F-06054 Nice Cedex, France. Tel: (33) 93-817133, Fax: (33) 93-533512.

Breast Cancer Screening

The 3rd international Cambridge conference on breast cancer screening is to be held at Queen's College Cambridge on 22–24 March 1993. The 10 planned sessions will consider the practical and theoretical aspects of screening implementation and impact. For further details contact Conference Secretariat, TICC, Marie Curie Education Department, 11 Lyndhurst Gardens, Hampstead, London NW3 5NS, U.K. Fax: (071) 794 0213.

Intestinal Proliferation and Differentiation

The British Society of Gastroenterology and the Biochemical Society will be holding a joint colloquium entitled Intestinal Proliferation, Differentiation and Cancer on 24 March 1993 in Manchester. For further information contact Dr S.P. Shirazi-Beechey, Dept. of Biochemistry, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, SY23 3DD, U.K. Tel: (970) 622297, Fax: (970) 622307.

Management of Oral Sequelae

The International Society for Oral Oncology 8th annual meeting entitled Management of Oral Sequelae Post-Cancer Therapy will be held on 22–24 April 1993 in Amsterdam. Recent advances in clinical and basic research, as well as clinical care, will be emphasised. For more details contact Dr Fred K.L. Spijkervet, Program Chairman, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, University Hospital, PO Box 30.001, 9700 RB Groningen, The Netherlands. Tel: (31) 50-612567, Fax: (31) 50-696724.

Clinical Biology of Cancer

The 8th symposium on clinical biology of cancers will be held at the Acropolis Convention Centre in Nice on 29–30 April 1993. Topics covered will include tumour markers, clinical application of molecular biology, thyroid cancer and myeloma. Further details can be obtained from Dr Pierre Chambon, Centre Antoine-Lacassagne, 36 Voie Romaine, 06054 Nice Cedex, France. Tel: (33) 93 81 71 33 ext. 2242, Fax: (33) 93 53 35 12.

Chemoprevention

The 2nd international conference on cancer chemoprevention will be held on 28–30 April 1993 in Berlin. For further details contact Mrs Jocelyn Mulli, KIT Congress Organisation, Kurfurstendamm 26a, 1000 Berlin 15, Germany. Tel: (49) 30 8836024, Fax: (49) 30 8825066.

AACR 1993

The 84th annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research will be held on 19–22 May 1993 in Orlando, Florida. Five plenary sessions, 21 symposia, as well as methods workshops on clinical trials methodology and molecular research techniques are planned. With a reported 6400 delegates in 1992, this is arguably one of the largest speciality oncology meetings of the year. For further details contact the AACR Office, Public Ledger Building, 620 Chestnut Street, Suite 816, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-3483, U.S.A. Tel: (215) 440-9300, Fax: (215) 440-9313.

ABMT Consensus

A consensus meeting will be organised in Lyon on 4–6 June 1993 to consider autologous bone marrow transplantation. The meeting will summarise ABMT in leukaemia, lymphomas and solid tumours. More information can be obtained from Prof. Bertrand Coiffier, Haematology Service, Centre Hospitalier Lyon-Sud, 69310 Pierre-Benite, France. Tel: (33) 78 86 11 94, Fax: (33) 78 50 68 05.

Malignant Lymphoma

The 5th international conference on current status and prospects for the treatment of malignant lymphoma will take place on 9–12 June 1993 in Lugano, Switzerland. For further information contact Dr F Cavalli, Ospedale San Giovanni, CH-6500, Bellinzona, Switzerland, or the Conference Secretariat. Tel: (91) 54 29 80, Fax: (91) 22 60 28.

Breast Cancer Working Conference

The 6th EORTC Breast Cancer Working Conference will be held in the RAI Conference Centre in Amsterdam on 6–9 September 1993. For additional information contact Prof. H. Bartelink, Department of Radiotherapy, The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Plesmanlaan 121, 1066 CX Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Fax: (31) 20 669 1101.

Sex Hormones and Anti-hormones

An international symposium entitled Sex Hormones and Anti-hormones in Endocrine-dependent Pathology: Basic and Clinical Aspects will be held in Milan on 26–30 September 1993. For additional information contact M. Motta (Chairman), Department on Endocrinology, University of Milano, 9 Via Balzaretti, 20133, Milano, Italy. Tel: (2) 29406576, Fax: (2) 29404927.