

Book review

Glycoimmunology (1995) Alavi, Azita and Axford, John S. (eds) New York and London: Plenum Press. 295 + Subject Index. \$89.50 in North America (\$107.40 outside US and Canada).

Glycoimmunology, Volume 376 in the series of *Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology* (1995) summarizes the Proceedings of the Third Jenner International Meeting on Glycoimmunology held in October 1994 in Tuscany, Italy. This meeting emphasizes the great interest generated by recent developments in the field of glycoconjugates and their physiological function and impact in health and disease. The book covers an impressive range of aspects affecting the topography of glycosylation of biomolecules in a total of 31 chapters in 295 pages. The chapters vary in length from one condensed page up to 30 pages (Chapter 6). Contributed by A. Dinter and E. S. Berger, Chapter 6 gives a refreshing overview about 'The Regulation of Cell- and Tissue-Specific Expression of Glycans by Glycosyltransferases'.

Several chapters are purely analytical in nature, reiterating problems of oligosaccharide sequencing (Chapter 1), detailing diagnostic procedures of inborn errors of carbohydrate metabolism (Chapter 2), reviewing chemometrics (Chapter 3), illustrating application of selectin-binding assays (Chapter 31), reporting on the use of radioiodinated tyrosinamide-linked oligosaccharides for the detection of endogenous lectins in mammalian organs (Chapter 30). Chapter 21 proposes the development of monoclonal antibodies for the *in situ* unearthing of sulfated glycosaminoglycans, and Chapter 4 (Hounsell *et al.*) discusses computer graphic molecular modelling to assess structure-function relationship.

At least a half-a-dozen chapters focus on the aberrant glycosylation process that affects immunoglobulins (IgG, IgA) in autoimmune disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis, Sjogren's Syndrome, since the organizers of the meeting and the editors of this volume

are rheumatologists. In Chapter 27, Lahti *et al.* examine the role of apoptosis in autoimmunity and cancer; such information should open new therapeutic vistas, although little in terms of past, present or future treatment is being discussed.

There are concise reviews on the regulation of fucosyl transferases in haemopoietic cells of sialyl-Le^x (Chapter 7, by Watkins *et al.*) and about the role of β 1,4-galactosyl-transferase in glycan biosynthesis and its relevance in intercellular communication (Chapters 8 & 9). In Chapter 24, W. Van Dijk reviews succinctly the various glycoforms of α 1-acid glycoprotein in inflammation, while Hart *et al.* give a summary of the role of nuclear and cytoplasmic glycoproteins carrying single O-linked N-acetylglucosamine residues (Chapter 10). But we learn nothing about mucins and disappointingly little about HIV propagation in the host cell, yet a whole page (p. 131) is used to illustrate the well-known structure of the heparin pentasaccharide that seems to be required for anticoagulant activity.

Given the specialized nature of the individual chapters, the readers may find themselves enjoying some more than others according to taste and interest.

In summary, the volume provides a vast array of new information, with in most instances updated reference lists. Disturbingly, individual chapters are not organized and divided into Sections. However, we found valuable the inclusion of a Subject Index, and recommend this issue to those glycoimmunologists who desire updated knowledge.

Albert M. Wu
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Corrigendum

Nathan Sharon was Chairman of the Xth International Glycoconjugate Symposium (Glyco X) held in Israel in 1989. He therefore became President of the International Glycoconjugate Organization (IGO) from 1989–91. His

name was inadvertently omitted from the list of Past-Presidents of IGO in the Glyco XIII Abstracts issue (*Glycoconjugate J*, Vol. 12, issue No. 4, August 1995).