

15. Kloosterman AD, Budowle B, Riley EL (1993) Population data of the HLA DQ α locus in Dutch Caucasians. Comparison with seven other population genetic studies. *Int J Legal Med* 105: 233–238
16. Kloosterman AD, Sjerps M, Wust D (1995) Dutch Caucasian population data on the loci LDLR, GYPA, HBGG, D7S8 and GC. *Int J Legal Med* 108: 36–38
17. Schneider PM, Veit A, Rittner C (1991) PCR-typing of the human HLA-DQ α locus: population genetics and application in forensic casework. In: Berghaus G, Brinkmann B, Rittner C, Staak M (eds) *DNA technology and its forensic application*. Springer, Berlin Heidelberg New York, pp 85–91
18. Hausmann R, Hantschel M, Lötterle J (1995) Frequencies of the 5 PCR-based genetic markers LDLR, GYPA, HBGG, D7S8 and GC in a North Bavarian population. *Int J Legal Med* 107: 227–228
19. Sullivan KM, Gill P, Lingard D, Lygo JE (1992) Characterization of HLA DQ α for forensic purposes. Allele and genotype frequencies in British Caucasian, Afro-Caribbean and Asian populations. *Int J Legal Med* 105: 17–20
20. Tagliabracci A, Giorgetti R, Agostini A, Buscemi L, Cingolani M, Ferrara SD (1992) Frequency of HLA DQA1 alleles in an Italian population. *Int J Legal Med* 105: 161–164

BOOK REVIEW

Ferner RE (1996) Forensic Pharmacology. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 249 pages. ISBN 0-19-854826-5

This book written by a non-forensic scientist constitutes an original but useful contribution in the vast domain of the legal medicine. While homicide by poisoning has become for several decades a subject of rarity due to the improvement of analytical toxicology, chemicals in general and medicines in particular are more and more involved as interfering or determinant factors in forensic cases and other related matters. In this respect, Doctor Ferner's book is an essential guide through the data of this new common branch of law and pharmacology defined as "the point at which medicines, mayhem and malpractice meet".

The text is divided into 3 parts including 15 chapters to which 3 appendices are added. Part 1 refers firstly to general considerations on drugs, pharmacokinetics, analytical determination and interpretation, and secondly, to legal considerations about admissibility of the proof and the role of the expert. Part 2 is devoted to specific problems concerning the effects of drugs on human behaviour and especially on the victims of crime and different as-

pects of the so up-to-date matter "negligence and medicines". Part 3 deals with the major drugs of concern in forensic practice such as ethanol, benzodiazepines, insulin, potassium salts, neuroleptics, opiates, paracetamol, anabolic steroids and vaccines. More technical aspects of pharmacology are developed in the appendices. There are related to pharmacokinetic calculations, detailed aspect of measurement of ethanol and calculations based on ethanol concentration as well as brief details on drugs of forensic importance.

Due to the importance of the subjects, the clarity of the text illustrated by numerous examples from the literature and the author's experience, the book will without any doubt meet the expectations of a wide range of readers more or less involved in this complex matter such as general and clinical practitioners, forensic pathologists and toxicologists, pharmacologists, students of clinical medicine, lawyers and police officers. An extensive bibliography and an index are included, which make this book a very helpful guide in the field of pharmacology applied to forensic medicine.