

**BOOK REVIEW**

ANTIBODIES IN RADIODIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY

Edited by Michael R Zalutsky  
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This volume attempts to summarise, in 240 pages, technical developments in the fields of immunoscintigraphy and antibody-targetted therapy. Therapeutic use of non-radioactive antibody conjugates, such as those with cytotoxic or cytostatic agents, is not covered.

The book is clearly aimed primarily at the practising laboratory scientist or technical manager and there is rather little analysis or discussion of clinical applications. From a total of eleven chapters there are chapters on tumour cell biology, the development and selection of tumour-associated specific monoclonal antibodies, the selection of appropriate radionuclides, the chemistry of radiolabelling, and the pharmacology of these immunoglobulins. These reviews are generally concisely written, and informative.

This is a rapidly developing field and it is therefore not perhaps surprising that there are some topics which are notable by their omission. Discussions of the generation of human anti-mouse antibody is not sufficiently detailed in view of the widespread perception that the patients' immune response is a fundamental obstacle to the rapid development of antibody targetting. The genetic manipulation of antibodies, which may provide a solution and will certainly increase in importance, is scarcely mentioned. There is no coverage of the diagnosis of non-malignant disease despite the probability that antibodies directed towards platelets, granulocytes, fibrin or cardiac myosin, which avoid some of the problems associated with tumour imaging, may well be among the first to gain widespread acceptance.

The book is strongest on coverage of the field up to and during 1987, later developments are not well reported. Despite this reservation, many will find it provides a useful summary, particularly when read in conjunction with current scientific journals.

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