

Book Reviews

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Radiation Damage in DNA: Structure/Function Relationships at Early Times. Proceedings, Symposium Gleneden Beach, Oregon, October 1–6, 1994.

A. Fuciarelli & J. Zimbrick, eds.
Batelle Press, 1995, 450 pp.
ISBN: 0-935470-90-5
USD 54.95.- Hardcover

The book is based on an interdisciplinary workshop on radiation-induced DNA damage, held in Oregon, USA, in October 1994. The book is composed of short reports by specialists in various fields, spanning from basic free radical induction events in DNA building blocks, via radiation chemistry and strand break induction in DNA, to effects on DNA at higher levels of organization and in cells. Certain technical aspects, such as effects of varying LET of the radiation or of synchrotron generated monochromatic radiation, are also included. The contributions are clustered together in chapters on common themes, which facilitates finding special topics of interest to the reader.

It is a book mainly for scientists interested in the current development in the field of basic radiation damage effects in biomolecules, and it gives a good overview of the field.

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The Molecular Biology and Pathology of Elastic Tissues. CIBA Foundation Symposium 192. Proceedings, Symposium Nairobi 1–3 November 1994.

D. J. Chadwick & J. A. Goode, eds.
John Wiley & Sons, 1995, 361 pp.
ISBN: 0 471 95718 6
USD 49.95.-

This book provides a comprehensive overview with numerous discussions of the biology and pathology of the elastic tissues. It is presented by established scientists within the field of elastic tissue. Specifically, the issues include molecular biophysics, ultrastructure, gene structure, regulation of synthesis of elastin, as well as the structure and function of fibrillin. Moreover, other chapters describe aspects of secretion, gene mutation, development and ageing of the elastin, the latter in connection with blood vessel biology. Also, chapters on elastin in systemic and pulmonary hypertension, and in the skin are present. Of particular interest to oncologists is a chapter devoted to tumour cells, the metastatic phenotype and the interaction with elastin. The interference of the tumour cell dissemination by soluble elastin and the importance of the identity between the 67 kDa elastin receptor and the 67 kDa laminin receptor is emphasized, and a rationale for the use of laminin peptides and elastin ligands as a basis for antimetastatic intervention is presented. General discussions on e.g. evolutionary aspects

are also presented. The papers are well written and topical, and the discussions are relevant.

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Diseases of the Breast

J. R. Harris, M. E. Lippman, M. Morrow, S. Hellman, eds.
Lippincott-Raven Publishers, 1996, 1047 pp., 291 figures, 217 tables.
ISBN: 0-397-51470-0
BP 118.-

I take great pleasure in reviewing this book which appears to me to be a monumental contribution of extreme value to all clinicians, counselling nurses, psychologists, and indeed also to most basic researchers within the field of breast disorders and diseases. I agree completely with the editors that 'Diseases of the Breast' appears as a single-source compilation of—as far as I can see—practically all available knowledge on breast diseases. The book has 4 editors and 97 additional contributors, all members of some of the most prestigious breast centres of excellence round the world, most of them coming from the United States.

The book is richly illustrated and details are meticulously described in appropriate tables. Importantly, both benign and malignant diseases are gathered as major parts of the content, and it is satisfactory finally to ascertain that controversies about for instance duct ectasia, periductal mastitis, mammary fistulas, and nonpuerperal breast abscesses have been considered under the same heading indicating an interdependence. In this new edition it is a typical feature that controversies very carefully are looked into based on recent evidence.

'Diseases of the Breast' is a comprehensive text book which includes extensive chapters on breast development and anatomy, biochemical control of breast development, molecular biology, and genetics. Very important for surgeons are excellent chapters on clinical evaluation, management of common as well as very rare breast disorders, biopsy techniques, diagnostic work-up, and surgical strategies and procedures in the treatment of breast cancer. Radiotherapists and medical oncologists will find updated and comprehensive chapters dealing with all modalities of breast cancer treatment and sequelae. Also patient rehabilitation and support are considered thoroughly. Scientists within the breast field also need fundamental clinical knowledge and will profit from consulting this book.

This edition has been extensively reorganized with reference to subject distribution and weightiness of individual subjects. Several new topics have been adopted especially within the field of molecular biology, genetics, risk factors and prognosis, prevention items and new methods of breast cancer detection. The volume has increased by approximately 40% compared with the former edition. Every chapter or subchapter is followed by an adequate updated list of references.

It is indeed a privilege to give credit to all the authors for producing this weighty and highly valuable contribution presenting most significant knowledge in an accessible form to clinicians, other groups of health personnel, as well as basic researchers. The book should be an indispensable item on the bookshelf in the office of any clinician dealing with breast diseases and in the reading room of every breast clinic centre, scientific library, university medical school, breast research laboratory, and nursing school.

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