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**Postgraduate Medical Journal** publishes original papers on subjects of current clinical importance and welcomes review articles with extensive, up-to-date bibliographies as guides to further reading. Several symposia are published each year, each devoted to a single subject and written by specialists in different disciplines. Most issues include authoritative current surveys of clinical problems, well documented reports of cases of particular interest, and book reviews. An international Postgraduate Diary is also included each month.

The Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine was founded by a group of London consultants after the First World War to assist postgraduates, particularly those coming to London from the Commonwealth, to pursue their studies. The Fellowship first published the **Postgraduate Medical Journal** to give information about lectures, conferences and courses and to provide a monthly review of all branches of medicine.

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## Conference Report

# XVIIth International Congress of Internal Medicine 1984 Kyoto, Japan

This meeting was attended by approximately 750 non-Japanese and 850 Japanese and was held in the magnificent Kyoto Conference Centre from 7-12 October 1984. Following the Opening Ceremony by H.I.M. The Crown Prince of Japan, a history of the International Society of Internal Medicine (ISIM) was presented by Dr D.T.D. Hughes (UK). Dr K. Seige (GDR) gave a presentation on the present and future of internal medicine in developing countries as a preface to a talk on Zen Buddhism and medicine and a memorial lecture on DNA Technology by Professor S.M. Weissman (Yale University School of Medicine).

Dr William S. Robinson (USA) speaking on the molecular biology of viral hepatitis pointed out that only 3 viruses had been found to contain reverse transcriptase capable of converting negative to positive strands, namely the cauliflower mosaic virus, the hepadna viruses and retroviruses. He briefly referred to clinical trials of ara-A with and without Interferon (IFN) against hepatitis B virus (HBV). Professor Neil McIntyre (UK) spoke of some misconceptions in the diagnosis and management of acute viral hepatitis. He reviewed type A, type B, type non-A non-B (NA/NB) and delta hepatitis, the latter being associated with HBV concurrent or past infection. He mentioned that many cases were confused with Gilbert's disease and recommended identification of specific viral markers as routine investigation, as well as ultrasound for dilated intrahepatic ducts.

NA/NB viral hepatitis and its emergence was presented by Dr P.C. Frei (Switzerland) (*Lancet*, 1982, ii, 899). He quoted overall mortality rates of 4% for HBV and 1% for NA/NB viral hepatitis. Treatment of chronic HBV infection was discussed by Dr H. Suzuki (Japan). Current trials of ara-A, IFN and cianidanol in combination were equivocal but Dr Suzuki was optimistic that satisfactory treatment would emerge shortly.

A satellite meeting on HBV infection was convened under the auspices of WHO and The Viral Hepatitis Research Foundation of Japan (VHFJ). An overview of the epidemiology of persistent HBV infection was presented by Dr Kusuya Nishioka (Tokyo) and he pointed out that more than 200 000 000 people were infected worldwide, 80% of them residing in Asia, and the majority of these infections are assumed to be sexually transmitted disease. The data he provided clearly demonstrated the increasing incidence of hepatoma in association with HBV infection, a major world health problem. A discussion ranged around prevention strategies by active immunization and prevention of maternal transmission. The economies of blind immunization, which might take as long as two generations to eradicate the infection were discussed. Advantages of stratification of the population and immunization policies were highlighted.

Dr W.B. Kannel (USA) discussed the decline in coronary heart disease (CHD) mortality in the USA which he sought to explain in the main by change in lifestyle in the population, especially in relation to reduced cigarette smoking.

The remarkable decline of CHD/hypertensive mortality was considered a major public health achievement. Stopping smoking halved the risk of myocardial infarction up to the age of 65 years, but not beyond in the Framingham follow-up survey. The number of coronary vessels involved is still considered to be the best indication of the outcome of CHD. Dr S. Hatano (Japan) discussed the epidemiology of CHD in Japan, where it results in low morbidity and lower mortality than elsewhere. This is contrasted with a higher incidence of mortality from stroke and hypertension. Professor D.T. Kelly (Australia) discussed implications of clinical management of CHD including beta-blockade following myocardial infarction. Important factors determining mortality in CHD patients are age, multi-vessel disease, previous infarction, and lower ejection fraction. The implications of percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty and coronary thrombolytic therapy in Japan were discussed by Dr M. Sekiguchi.

The newer aspects of prostaglandin research were presented in a special lecture by Dr Hayaishi (Japan), among the more controversial being his finding of prostaglandin G in the central nervous system and its possible role as a neurochemical. The future implications of prostanoids as anti-cancer agents were also briefly discussed.

A plan of management of peptic ulcer was presented by Dr D.W. Piper (Australia) the mainstay of which was H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonists or sucralfate in patients with more than two exacerbations per year. Surgery is advised in those with bleeding, in the elderly with a chronic ulcer who bleed recurrently after admission, and in those with evidence of large vessel bleeding.

Dr M. Gent (Canada) presented perspectives in anti-platelet drug therapy. He discussed the controversy surrounding clinical trials of low aspirin, dipyridamole, and sulphapyrazone in ischaemic heart disease, cerebral ischaemia and in the prevention of other thromboembolic disorders. Methodology was responsible for some of these discrepancies and subject group analysis had distinguished differential benefit claimed for low dose aspirin between male and female patients with cerebral ischaemia. An interesting paper was given by Dr Kuroiwa on demyelinating diseases and included a discussion of the higher incidence of multiple sclerosis in tropical areas, such as the Philippines. Causes of cognitive decline using a mnemonic based on the word DEMENTIA (D: Drugs, E: Emotional disorders, M: Metabolic/endocrine, E: Eyes and ears, N: Nutrition/normal pressure hydrocephalus, T: Tumours, toxins and trauma, I: Infection, A: Atherosclerosis) was presented by Dr J. Yesavage (USA).

Dr Yamori discussed experimental models for human essential hypertension, more particularly spontaneously hypertensive rats. Dr Graham MacGregor (UK) presented a paper on the relationship between hypertension and circulating sodium transport inhibitor. Dr Borghetti (Italy) spoke of regulation of diuresis in hypertension, while Dr R.C. Tarazi

(USA) discussed the active role of the heart in the initiation of hypertension. This session was concluded by Dr A. Zanchetti (Italy), who spoke on progress in understanding pathogenic mechanisms of hypertension. The success of converting enzyme inhibitors in essential hypertension has re-emphasised the importance of angiotensin in cardiovascular regulation.

A special lecture on receptor disease was given by Dr B.R. Smith (UK), which included discussion of the role of TSH receptors in Graves' disease, acetylcholine receptors in myasthenia gravis and autoantibodies to the insulin receptor.

C.D.M. Drew  
London

## Books Received

**Acute Pancreatitis. Advances in Pathogenesis, Diagnosis and Treatment**, edited by Peter A. Banks and Gabriele Bianchi Porro. Pp. x + 180, illustrated. Masson Italia, Milan, 1984. Lire 28.00, US \$20.00.

**Anticoagulants and Myocardial Infarction: a Reappraisal**, edited by T.W. Meade. Pp. xi + 272, illustrated. John Wiley, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore, 1984. £28.50.

**Antifibrinolytic Drugs: Chemistry, Pharmacology and Clinical Usage**, Derek Ogston. Pp. xiv + 180, illustrated. John Wiley, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore, 1984. £15.50.

**Cardiology Revision. Case Histories, MCQs and Data Interpretation**, Alistair Mackay. Pp. 256, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1984. £7.95.

**Coagulation Problems during Pregnancy**, Elizabeth A. Letsky. Current Review in Obstetrics and Gynaecology Series. Pp. 137, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1984. £9.95.

**Gastroenterology Revision. Illustrated Case Histories and MCQs**, Robin A. Bradbear, C. Bryan Campbell and Lawrie W. Powell. Pp. 201, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1984. £7.95.

**In Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer**, edited by Alan Trounson & Carl Wood. Pp. ix + 254, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1984. £25.00.

**Manual of Pediatric Anesthesia**, Second edition, David J. Steward. Pp. xiv + 377. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1984. £24.00.

**Mental Handicap**, Oliver Russell. Current Reviews in Psychiatry Series. Pp. 220. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1984. £12.00.

**Nutrition, Hypertension and Cardiovascular Disease**, Ronald S. Smith. Pp. 210. Lyncean Press, Gilroy, California, 1984. £12.95.

**Obstetric Analgesia and Anaesthesia**, Second edition, J. Selwyn Crawford. Current Reviews in Obstetrics and Gynaecology series. Pp. 169. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1984. £9.00.

**Recent Advances in Community Medicine. No. 3**, edited by Alwyn Smith. Pp. vii + 310, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1984. £28.00.

**Recent Advances in Epilepsy. No. 2**, edited by Timothy A. Pedley & Brian S. Meldrum. Pp. ix + 344, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £30.00.

**Short Cases for the MRCP**, Charles R.K. Hind. Pp. 145. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1984. £4.50.

**A Short Textbook of Haematology**, Sixth edition, R.B. Thompson & S.J. Proctor. Pp. x + 518, illustrated. Pitman, London, 1984, £10.95.

**Using and Understanding Medical Statistics**, David E. Matthews and Vernon T. Farewell. Pp. ix + 200, illustrated. Karger, Basel, München, Paris, London, New York, Tokyo, Sydney, 1985. Sw.Fr. 48.00; DM 57.00; US \$28.75; £48.00 approx.

## Postgraduate Diary

### British Postgraduate Medical Federation

Courses in Advanced Medicine 17 April–Psychiatry Module. 29 April–17 May–Advanced Course in Endocrinology

Educational courses and workshops: 2/3 May  
Cancer: A Patient-centred Approach

*Central Office, 33 Millman Street, London, WC1N 3EJ, UK.*

### Institute of Basic Medical Sciences

Courses for Dental Surgeons (starting 15 April 1985).  
Revision course in Anatomy 13–24 May

*IBMS, Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN, UK.*

### Institute of Child Health

Genetic Engineering in Medicine: Techniques and Applications 13–15 May

*30 Guildford Street, London WC1N 1EH, UK.*

### Institute of Laryngology and Otology

Basic sciences class for Part 1 D.L.O, students 29 April–17 May 1985. Rehabilitation of Hearing-Impaired Adults 13–17 May 1985

*330/336 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EE, UK.*

### Institute of Neurology

Sandoz Foundation advanced lectures on clinical and experimental neurology. Each Wednesday evening throughout Academic Year

*Details: Institute Registrar, National Hospital, Queen Square, London WC1N 3BG, UK.*

### Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Symposium–Advanced techniques of fetal monitoring in labour 19 April

*Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG, UK.*

### Institute of Ophthalmology

Orthoptic course 3–7 June

*17/25 Cayton Street, London EC1V 9AT, UK.*

### Royal Postgraduate Medical School

New techniques in metabolic bone disease 15–19 April fee £160

Advanced gastroenterology for physicians and surgeons: vascular disease, bleeding and the gut 4–6 June fee £90

*School Office, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, Du Cane Road, London W12 OHS, UK.*

### International Union Against Cancer

Details of fellowship programmes from

*3 rue du Conseil-General, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland.*

### Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions

Clinical cytopathology for pathologists March to May 1985

*John K. Frost, M.D., 604 Pathology Building, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland 21205, USA.*

### Liverpool, Newsham General Hospital

Lunchtime meetings twice monthly

*Secretary, Postgraduate Centre, Belmont Road, Liverpool, L6 4AF, UK.*

### London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Courses in community health, occupational health and preventive medicine

*The Registrar, LSHTM, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT, UK.*

### Loughborough University of Technology

Womens' Work: Womens' Health 8–10 May 1985

Occupational health management 20–24 May 1985

*Centre for Extension Studies, University of Technology, Loughborough, Leics. LE11 3TU, UK.*

**University of Manchester**

Course for NHS and Local Authority Occupational Physicians 18–20 April 1985

*Course Secretary, Dept of Postgraduate Medical Studies, Gateway House, Piccadilly South, Manchester M60 7LP.*

**University of Salford**

The prescription and use of lower limb orthoses 17–19 April 1985

*The Conference Office, University of Salford, Salford M5 4WT.*

**Oxford Regional Committee for Postgraduate Medical Education and Training**

Radiobiology and Allied Sciences Course, Churchill Hospital, Oxford 10–21 June

*Dr K. Durrant or Dr J. Hopewell, Medical School Offices, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington, Oxford OX3 9DU, UK.*

**Southampton, Royal South Hants Hospital**

13–17 May Advanced Medicine Course (for consultants and senior registrars)

*The Secretary, Postgraduate Medical Centre, Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton, UK.*

**Medical Seminars International**

London Spring Seminar – Computed tomography, magnetic resonance and digital radiography 10–15 May 1985

*Secretary, Spring Seminar, Medical Seminars International, West Park Medical Office Building, 22135 Rosecoe Blvd, 104 Canoga Park, CA 91304, USA.*

**Stanford University Medical Center**

Fourth International Symposium on Psoriasis 7–12 July, 1985

*Paul H. Jacobs, M.D., Dept of Dermatology, Stanford University Medical Center, Stanford, CA 94305, USA.*

Full details of the courses, meetings and symposia listed above, and of others of interest to medical postgraduates, can be obtained from the individual organizations.

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volume number, underlined; number of first page of article. References to books and monographs should include (a) name(s) and initials of all author(s); year of publication in parentheses, (b) title, underlined; (c) edition and editor(s)' names and initials; (d) page referred to; (e) publisher; (f) place. *Authors should ensure that the listed references correspond exactly to those in the text.* Authors are responsible for the accuracy of their references.

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