

Postgraduate Medical Journal

EDITORIAL BOARD

B.I. Hoffbrand
Editor

D. Barltrop
D.G. Beevers
I. Chanarin
D.J. Coltart
A.H. Crisp
I.J.T. Davies
C.D.M. Drew
H. Ellis
R. Goulding

R.B. Heath
J.P. Hopewell
G.R.V. Hughes
D. Ingram
D.G. James
R.S. Kocen
L. Kreel
J.G. Lewis
J.S. Malpas

P.J.A. Moulton
M.W.N. Nicholls
A. Paton
M.J. Peckham
R.E. Pounder
D.R.J. Singer
P. Turner
R.G. Twycross
P.D. Welsby

International Editorial Representatives

G.J. Schapel, *Australia*
P. Tugwell, *Canada*
J.W.F. Elte, *The Netherlands*
M. Moser, *USA*

Editorial Assistant

Mrs. J.M. Coops

Volume 64, Number 757

November 1988



The **Postgraduate Medical Journal** is published monthly on behalf of the Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine by the Scientific & Medical Division, The Macmillan Press Ltd, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS, UK.

Telephone: Basingstoke (0256) 29242
Telex: 858493. Fax (0256) 479476

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.

© 1988 The Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine
ISSN 0032-5473

Manuscripts and all editorial correspondence, including books for review should be sent to: The Editor, Postgraduate Medical Journal, 6 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB, UK. Telephone: 01-935 5556.

A 'Notice to Contributors' is published on the inside back cover of this issue. The Editor reserves the right to make changes which may clarify or condense papers where this is considered desirable. The Journal is covered by *Current Contents*, *Biological Abstracts*, *ASCA*, *ISI/BIOMED* and *Science Citation Index*.

All business correspondence, reprint requests and enquiries concerning advertising space and rates should be addressed to the Scientific & Medical Division, The Macmillan Press Ltd, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS.

Subscription price per volume of twelve issues: UK £90.00; Rest of the World £105.00 or equivalent in any other currency. Orders must be accompanied by remittance. Cheques should be made payable to *Macmillan Press*, and sent to: The Macmillan Press Ltd, PO Box 500, Leicester LE99 0AA, UK. Where appropriate, subscribers may make payments into UK Post Office Giro Account No. 519 2455. Full details must accompany payments.

All rights of reproduction are reserved in respect of all papers, articles, illustrations, etc., published in this journal in all countries of the world.

Authorization to photocopy items for internal or personal use, or the internal or personal use of specific clients, is granted by The Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine for libraries and other users registered with the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) Transactional Reporting Service, provided that the base fee of \$01.00 per copy, plus \$0.10 per page is paid directly to CCC, 27 Congress St., Salem, MA 01970, USA.
0032-5473/88 \$1.00 + \$0.10

Publisher: Alex Williamson

Production and Editorial Services Manager:
Nigel McNeil-Smith

Circulation Services: A.L. Clark

Printed in Great Britain by Bell and Bain Ltd, Glasgow

Whilst every effort is made by the publishers and editorial board to see that no inaccurate or misleading data, opinion or statement appears in this Journal, they wish to make it clear that the data and opinions appearing in the articles and advertisements herein are the responsibility of the contributor or advertiser concerned. Accordingly, the publishers and The Fellowship, the editorial committee and their respective employees, officers and agents accept no liability whatsoever for the consequences of any such inaccurate or misleading data, opinion or statement. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that drug doses and other quantities are presented accurately, readers are advised that new methods and techniques involving drug usage, and described within this Journal, should only be followed in conjunction with the drug manufacturer's own published literature.

Conference Report

Asian and Pacific Pharmacology Meeting in Beijing

Pharmacology is strong in the Far East. That was the message of the 5th Southeast Asian and Western Pacific Regional Meeting of Pharmacologists in Beijing from July 4-8. Representatives of pharmacological societies from India in the west to Japan, Australia and New Zealand in the east, together with guest speakers from Europe, America and South Africa, met to present new work and review subjects of major interest in the basic and clinical areas of pharmacology.

The strength of Chinese pharmacology was demonstrated by the presence of more than 500 delegates from Chinese institutes, and by many important contributions to the proceedings. The opening lecture by Z.-J. Jin (Shanghai) on the potential value of computer programming of intravenous drug administration in the maintenance of blood pressure in animals and man, superior, he claimed, to nature's own autonomic ganglia, was an excellent example of the sophistication of some current clinical research in China. The following lecture by Kuriyama (Kyoto) on purification and characterization of cerebral GABA receptors was a salutary reminder, if such were

needed, of the strength of the research base in many centres in the far east.

Most broad areas of pharmacology and clinical pharmacology were covered throughout the five-day meeting. Symposia were devoted to hypertension (yet again), drugs on cerebral and myocardial ischaemia and reperfusion, and anti-platelet and anti-atherosclerotic drugs. Not surprisingly traditional herbal drugs and natural products received much attention, and it would be surprising if powerful therapeutic tools in several important treatment areas including cancer, cardiovascular, central nervous and immunological, are not identified as a result of work now in progress in many centres. The next meeting of the regional group, planned for 1991 in Hong Kong, should prove another exciting occasion, intellectually as well as socially.

Professor Paul Turner, M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.P.
*Department of Clinical Pharmacology,
St Bartholomew's Hospital,
London, EC1A 7BE, UK.*

position and environmental precipitants, and the place of wheezy bronchitis and acute bronchiolitis within the spectrum of asthmatic disorders. Lung function tests are dealt with, and the value of peak flow measurement is stressed.

The discussion of drug treatment is a model of clarity and simplicity, bringing easy understanding of the principles of management. The division of this section into three age groups, i.e. less than one year, one to five years, and over five years will improve the clinical approach and confidence of its readers in dealing with acutely wheezy children. The place of allergen avoidance and the very limited place for desensitization are dealt with, and alternative medicine therapies are touched upon.

The place of the family doctor in management is emphasized, especially in the chapter by Dr Jenkinson, who holds the view that most asthmatic children can be cared for by their general practitioner. The success of such care will clearly depend upon the interest and expertise of the doctor and his skill in communicating with children and their parents. He could do no better than to read this excellent book, which is highly recommended also to hospital doctors and others dealing with asthmatic children.

B.L. Priestley
*Children's Hospital,
Western Bank,
Sheffield S10 2TH.*

The Respiratory System. Measurement in Medicine Series, Vol. 2, edited by D.G. Cramp and E.R. Casson. Pp. 395, illustrated. Croom Helm, London, Sydney, 1987. £49.50.

The generation and testing of hypotheses in the field of respiratory physiology has owed much to the use of

models and these have developed over the years from being simply representational to be of considerable complexity.

It is the realm of the respiratory physiologist to perceive these unanswered questions where modelling may be of assistance, and it is now often necessary to seek the help and advice of a mathematician to assist in the elaboration of the model. This interdisciplinary activity is difficult to achieve and there is a need for the physiologist to have a greater knowledge of the general principles underlying mathematical modelling, and for the mathematician to have a deeper insight into the problems and limitations of physiology.

This problem is addressed by this latest volume from the series 'Measurement in Medicine'. The physiologist is well served within its pages, which offers an insight into models of most types, although their mathematical development will probably tax the numeracy of most physiologists. It is not bedside reading but is nonetheless valuable, calling only for a little application on the part of the reader.

The mathematician is perhaps less well served, since the two chapters on respiratory physiology — one from Oxford and one from Edinburgh — whilst perfectly adequate, will fail to point out to the mathematician those areas where his skills might best be deployed.

The hardback volume has been produced from camera ready copy and has not been typeset, but the standard of good printing has been preserved. The editors are to be commended for tackling a difficult problem and achieving a modest success.

G. Cumming
*Midhurst Medical Research Institute,
Midhurst,
W. Sussex.*

Books Received

ABC of Dermatology, edited by P.K. Buxton. Pp. 91, illustrated. British Medical Journal, London, 1988. £10.95 UK, £13 abroad.

Adult Abnormal Psychology, edited by E. Miller and P.J. Cooper. Pp. x+380. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1988. £29.95.

Dilemmas in Otorhinolaryngology, edited by D.F.N. Harrison. Pp. xii+374. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1988. £45.

Genital Tract Infections in Women, edited by M.J. Hare. Pp. x+378, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1988. £50.

Learning Psychiatry through MCQ, edited by Tom Sensky. Pp. x+259. John Wiley and Sons, Chichester, West Sussex, 1988. £9.95.

Magnesium in Clinical Practice, edited by Jean Durlach. Pp. xix+360. John Libbey & Co., London, 1988. £35 UK; \$68 US; FF415.

Nerve Injury and Repair, edited by G. Lundborg. Pp. 222. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1988. £50.

Occupational Therapy in Mental Health, edited by Derek W. Scott and Noomi Katz. Pp. viii+222. Taylor and Francis, London, New York, Philadelphia, 1988.

Procedures in Practice, edited by various authors. Pp. viii+187, illustrated. British Medical Journal, London, 1988. £6.96 UK; \$8.75 abroad.

Recent Advances in Otolaryngology — 6, edited by Roger Gray and John Rutlea. Pp. viii+253, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, 1988. £35.

Tuberculosis and Leprosy, edited by R.J.W. Rees. Pp. 523–820, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, 1988. £22.50.

Postgraduate Diary

British Postgraduate Medical Federation

Educational development courses – programme of courses and workshops

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

Institute of Cancer Research

Regular programme of seminars and teaching sessions throughout the year.

Information: The Dean, Institute of Cancer Research, Haddow Laboratories, 15 Cotswold Road, Belmont, Surrey SM2 5NG, UK.

Cardiothoracic Institute

Courses leading to award of University Diplomas in Cardiology and Thoracic Medicine. Short Courses, meetings and symposia are held throughout the year.

Short course in Epidemiology and Medical Statistics, 17-21 October 1988.

Postgraduate Office, Cardiothoracic Institute, Dovehouse Street, London SW3 6LY. Tel: 01-351 8172.

Institute of Child Health

Short courses booklet for year 1988-89 now available.

For further details please apply to: Anne Crowley, Short Courses Office (Room 6), Institute of Child Health, 30 Guilford Street, London WC1N 1EH. Tel: 01-829 8692 (direct).

Institute of Dental Surgery

Courses for M.Sc. in various aspects of dentistry, Diploma in Dental Public Health, basic medical sciences, etc.

Information: The Dean, Institute of Dental Surgery, Eastman Dental Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8LD, UK.

Hunterian Institute

Long and short courses in basic medical sciences for primary FRCS (including revision courses in Anatomy/Physiology/Pathology), Primary FDS, FFA part 2 held through the year.

Courses in Clinical Surgery for final FRCS held in Spring and Autumn. Anastomosis Workshop; AO course of fracture treatment.

Short revision course in Anatomy/Physiology/Pathology 14 November-2 December 1988.

Details and applications: The Hunterian Institute, Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN. Tel: 01-405 3474.

Institute of Laryngology and Otology

Pre-FRCS and DLO exam courses. Advances courses on: Temporal bone surgery – November and June. Anaesthesia for ENT – October. Rhinology and Surgery of the Nasal Cavity and Paranasal Sinuses – October. Nasal Plastic and Facial Soft Tissue Surgery – February. Pathology of the Ear, Nose and Throat – June.

Applications and enquiries: Cheryl Overington, Secretary to the Dean, Institute of Laryngology and Otology, 330/332 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EE.

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.

RPMS Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Reproduction – Friday 25 November 1988

The newborn kidney – Friday 9th December 1988

Course for senior paediatricians from abroad – 5-9 December 1988.

Details of these and other symposia from: Symposium Secretary, RPMS Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Queen Charlotte's Hospital for Women, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG, UK

Institute of Ophthalmology

Regular courses in ophthalmology held throughout the year

17/25 Cayton Street, London EC1 9AT, UK.

Institute of Orthopaedics

Course on Disorders of the Knee – September to December 1988.

One day meeting on Modern Trends in Bone Tumour Management – 11 November 1988.

Course on Radiology of Bones and Joints – 16-18 November 1988.

Details: Miss A.M. Lucas, Postgraduate Secretary, Institute of Orthopaedics, The Middlesex Hospital, London W1. Tel: 01-380 9418.

Institute of Psychiatry

Symposium 'Aids and the brain' 24 November 1988

'When families fail: research and practice in child abuse' 9 December 1988.

Details: Nadine Morgan, Conference Office, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, London SE4 8AG. Tel: 01-703 5411 ext 3170.

Institute of Urology

Short courses on aspects of urology and nephrology – throughout the year

One year Diploma courses in urology and nephrology commencing September each year.

Advanced stone management courses – held twice yearly.

Applications and enquiries: The Dean, Institute of Urology, 172-176 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JE, UK.

Royal Postgraduate Medical School

Regular courses on advanced topics

School Office, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, Du Cane Road, London W12 0HS, UK.

University of Manchester

M.A. in Health Care Ethics

Details: Mrs S. Ibbotson, Department of Education, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL, UK.

University of Warwick

'Painful decisions. Ethical dilemmas for health care professionals' November 30th 1988.

Details: Mrs J. Blake, Department of Continuing Education, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL. Tel: 0203 523683.

International Union Against Cancer

Details of fellowship programmes from: 3 rue du Conseil-Général, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland.

Liverpool, Newsham General Hospital

Lunchtime meetings twice monthly

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

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

MSc, diploma and research degree courses in public health and tropical medicine.

Enquiries: The Registrar, LSHTM, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT.

Forum on Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics

17 March 1988 Drug formularies – the way forward 6 October 1989 The anxiolytic jungle: what drug for whom?

Details: Miss Barbara Komoniewska, Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE. Tel: 01-408 2119 ext 301.

European Medical Research Group

Regular meetings consisting of poster session followed by guest lecture. Held at Medical Society of London, Lettsom House, 11 Chandos Street, London W1.

Next meeting 7 December 1988 Professor Sir David Weatherall 'The molecular pathology of a single gene disorder.'

Details from: Dr D.R.J. Singer, c/o Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine, 6 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB. Tel: 01-935 5556.

European Society of Gynaecological Oncology

6th International Congress, April 27–29 1989, Palais des Congres de Versailles, France

Details: Professor A. Gorins, Centre d'Oncologie et des Maladies du Sein, Hôpital Saint-Louis, 38 rue Bichet, 75101 Paris

Loughborough University

Brochure of short courses run by University Training Group available from: Loughborough University of Technology, University Training Group, Centre for Extension Studies, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3TU, UK

Barrow Neurological Institute

Third Annual Magnetic Resonance Imaging Conference, Camelback Inn Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA, March 4–8 1989.

Details: Kevin King, Education Coordinator, Barrow Neurological Institute, 350 W. Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013, USA

Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School

Advanced course on 'Changing concepts in children's orthopaedics', 15–17 March 1989.

Details: Postgraduate Medical Centre, Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8RF.

European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO)

6th International Congress. April 27–29 1989, Palais des Congres de Versailles, France.

Details: Professor A. Gorins, Contre d'Oncologie et des Maladies Du Sein, Hôpital Saint-Louis, 38 Rue Bichet, 75010 Paris, France.

University of Warwick

Course: Techniques and applications of molecular biology: a course for medical practitioners, 12–14 December 1988.

Details: Dr Rachel Strachan, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL. Tel: 0203 523523.

Anglo French Medical Society

Annual Scientific Meetings alternating between Britain and France. 1988 – Cambridge, 1989 – Toulouse (theme, aviation medicine) Also week-long medical language courses in France.

Information: Secretary, Anglo French Medical Society, The Moat House, Lymm Hall, Lymm, Cheshire WA13 0AJ.

4th South-East European Symposium of Paediatric Surgery

'Normal and Disturbed Oesophageal Function in Childhood'.

7–9 September 1989. Graz, Austria.

Details: Professor Dr M. Hollwarth, Department of Paediatric Surgery, University of Graz, Heinrichstrasse 31, A-8010, Graz, Austria.

2nd European Congress of Endocrinology

Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, 1–6 July 1990.

Information: Secretariat, Kompas Jugoslavia, Congress Department, Prazakova 4, 61000 Ljubljana, Yugoslavia.

The Fourth British Arthroscopy Symposium

8–10 March 1989

Details: Metaphor Conferences and Meetings, 21 Kirklees Close, Farsley, Pudsey, W. Yorkshire.

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

Notice to Contributors

The *Postgraduate Medical Journal* considers manuscripts prepared in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (*Br Med J* 1988, **296**: 401–05). All material submitted is assumed to be submitted exclusively to the *Postgraduate Medical Journal* unless the contrary is stated.

Typescripts Two complete copies should be sent to the Editor, *Postgraduate Medical Journal*, 6 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB. Papers must be typewritten, double-spaced, on one side of paper not larger than A4 (297 mm × 210 mm), with a 5 cm margin. The first page of the typescript should bear the names of the author(s) and the name and address of the laboratory or institution where the work has been carried out, in addition to the title of the paper. The full address of the principal author to whom proofs will be sent should be given as a footnote, as should any permanent changes of address and/or appointment. A short (running) title of not more than 45 characters should be given. All pages should be numbered including the title page. In line with many other journals, we do not normally return rejected manuscripts.

The principal author must ensure that any co-authors listed agree to submission of the typescript. Any written or illustrative material which has been or will be published elsewhere must be duly acknowledged and accompanied by the written consent of the authors and publishers concerned.

Arrangement Papers should be divided into; (a) Title page, (b) Summary, (c) Introduction, (d) Materials and methods, (e) Results, (f) Discussion, (g) Acknowledgements, (h) References, (i) Tables, (j) Figures and captions. The summary should not exceed 250 words and should state concisely what was done, the main findings and how the work was interpreted. In all sections of the paper numbered paragraphs should be avoided if at all possible.

Style Abbreviations and symbols must be standard and SI units used throughout. Acronyms should be used sparingly and must be fully explained when first used. Whenever possible drugs should be given their approved generic name. Where a proprietary (brand) name must be used, it should begin with a capital letter. Statistical analyses must explain the methods used. The use of footnotes is not permitted. Single quotation marks should be used and words to be italicized should be underlined. The *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* is used as a reference for all spelling and hyphenation.

References should follow the Vancouver format. In the text, they should appear as numbers starting at 1. At the end of the paper they should be listed (double-spaced) in numerical order corresponding to the order of citation in the text. All authors should be quoted for papers with up to six authors; for papers with more than six authors, the first three only should be quoted followed by *et al.* Abbreviations for titles of medical periodicals

should conform to those used in the latest edition of *Index Medicus*. The first and last page numbers for each reference should be provided. Abstracts and letters must be identified as such.

1. Clements, R. & Gravelle, I.H. Radiological appearances of hydatid disease in Wales. *Postgrad Med J* 1986, **62**: 167–73.
2. Greenberger, J.S. Long-term hematopoietic cultures. In: Golde, W. (ed) *Hematopoiesis*. Churchill-Livingstone, New York, 1984, pp 203–242.

Figures In the text Arabic numbers should be used and all illustrations should be specifically referred to in the text, e.g. (Figure 2). All illustrations should be submitted at about 1½ times the intended final size and should be numbered as figures whether they are photographs, representational drawings or line diagrams and graphs.

Photographs and photomicrographs should be unmounted glossy prints and should not be retouched, and should be chosen to exclude technical artefacts. Magnification is best indicated by a line representing a defined length included within the photographs. Areas of key interest and/or critical reproduction should be indicated on a flimsy overlay attached to the photograph or on a photocopy. All annotations and lettering should be indicated in the same way, and preferably not included on the original print. Clearly contrasted and focused prints are essential for adequate reproduction.

Line diagrams and graphs should be on separate sheets; they must be drawn with black Indian ink on white paper, or supplied as photographic prints of such originals. Lettering on figures should be minimal and must not duplicate the legend. The use of symbols should be consistent within papers, and explanations of symbols should be included in the caption, not on the figure.

A photocopy of all illustrations should be submitted. **Tables** These should be as few as possible and should present only essential data. They should be typewritten on separate sheets, have a title or caption, and given Roman numbers.

Proofs Two marked copies of the proofs will be sent to the principal author which should be read carefully for errors. One corrected copy must be returned to the editor within 3 days. Major alterations to the text cannot be accepted.

Copyright assignment The principal author must complete and return to the Publisher the Copyright Assignment Form enclosed with the proofs.

Offprints Twenty-five offprints will be supplied free of charge to the principal author. Additional offprints may be ordered on the form accompanying proofs. The charges are necessarily higher if orders are received after the issue has gone to press.

Drug side effects Manuscripts reporting adverse drug reactions should be accompanied by evidence showing that the reaction has been reported on a 'yellow card' or to the appropriate drug licensing authority, and to the drug manufacturer.