

International Postgraduate Diary

Institute of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Imperial College School of Medicine, London

14–16 September 1999: Child health surveillance & promotion

23 September 1999: Paediatric intensive care issues

30 September 1999: Update in neonatology for neonatal nurses

1 October 1999: Drugs in school

4 October 1999: The death of a child

6–8 October 1999: Medical problems facing obstetricians and physicians in pregnancy

11 October 1999: Women and children with HIV and AIDS

19 October 1999: Adolescent medicine—the teenage years

4 November 1999: Child protection

5 November 1999: Menopause, HRT and the general practice team

8 November 1999: Community child health—modern practice

9 November 1999: Children under stress

16 November 1999: The child with special needs

17/18 November 1999: Psychosexual medicine in practice

22–26 November 1999: Neonatal course for senior paediatricians

Details: The Symposium Office, Imperial College School of Medicine, Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea Hospital, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG, UK. Tel +44 181 383 3904; fax +44 181 383 8555; email: sympreg@ic.ac.uk

Institute of Psychiatry, London

14 October 1999: Religious identity and mental health

Details: Lee Wilding, Conference Office, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, London SE5 8AF, UK. Tel +44 171 919 3170; fax +44 171 740 5172; email: l.wilding@iop.kcl.ac.uk

17th World Congress on sarcoidosis and other granulomatous disorders

8–13 November 1999: Kumamoto, Japan

Details: Prof Masayuki Ando, Kumamoto University School of Medicine, 1-1-1 Honjo, Kumamoto 860, Japan. Tel +81 96 373 5150; fax +81 96 371 0582

World Congress of Interventional Cardiology

14–16 October 1999: Mumbai, India

Details: Prof Dr Lekha Pathak, Secretary General, World Congress of Interventional Cardiology, Santacruz (West), Mumbai 400 054, India. Tel + 91 22 6490261; fax + 91 22 6494946

International Institute for Continuing Medical Education

2–5 August 1999: Breast imaging today and tomorrow (Santa Fe, NM, USA)

30 August–3 September 1999: Imaging in Tuscany (Tuscany, Italy)

3–5 September 1999: Advanced MRI (Montreal, Quebec, Canada)

24–26 September 1999: Internal derangements of joints: advanced and intensive MRI (Las Vegas, NV, USA)

27–30 September 1999: Mammography in Edinburgh (Edinburgh, UK)

30 September–3 October 1999: Breast imaging update (Hilton Head, SC, USA)

9–12 October 1999: Mt Sinai 1999 Body imaging update (New York, NY, USA)

13–17 October 1999: Mt Sinai 1999 Brain, spine, neurovascular and ENT imaging update (New York, NY, USA)

Details: Ryals & Associates, Inc, PO Box 1925, Roswell, GA 30077-1925, USA. Tel +1 770 641 9773; fax +1 770 552 9859

International Skeletal Society and the University of California, San Diego

18–21 August 1999: International Skeletal Society annual meeting and course (Seattle, WA, USA)

Details: Ryals & Associates, Inc, PO Box 1925, Roswell, GA 30077-1925, USA. Tel +1 770 641 9773; fax +1 770 552 9859

University of California School of Medicine at San Francisco/University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

4–6 November 1999: Otolaryngology update 1999 (San Francisco, CA, USA)

Details: University of California, Office of Continuing Medical Education, UGSF Box 0742, LH-450, San Francisco, CA 94143-0742, USA. Tel +1 415 476 4521; fax +1 415 476 0318

University of Utah

18–21 August 1999: Update in clinical computing (Salt Lake City, Utah, USA)

Details: Office of CME, University of Utah School of Medicine, 50 N Medical Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84132, USA. Tel +1 801 581 8664; fax +1 801 581 3647; email: rosalie.lammle@hsc.utah.edu

Falk Symposia

10/11 September 1999: New concepts on aetiopathogenesis and treatment of inflammatory bowel disease (Warsaw, Poland)

16–18 September 1999: Cytokines and cell homeostasis in the gastrointestinal tract (Regensburg, Germany)

20/21 October 1999: Immunology and liver (Basel, Switzerland)

22–24 October 1999: Liver cirrhosis and its development (Basel, Switzerland)

25 October 1999: Interventional endoscopy in hepatology (Basel, Switzerland)

Details: Falk Foundation—Congress Division, Leineweberstr 5, PO Box 6529, D-79041 Freiburg, Germany. Tel +49 761 130340; fax +49 761 1303459; email: symposia@falkfoundation.de

Book review

ABC of palliative care, Marie Fallon, Bill O'Neill, eds, pp 80. BMJ Books, 1998. £14.95 (£13.95 to BMA members), paperback. ISBN: 0 7279 0793 X.

This book provides a useful and accessible guide to the basic principles of palliative care. The chapters on nausea, vomiting and intestinal obstruction, and on constipation and diarrhoea are particularly valuable, providing a logical approach to management clearly and concisely. The chapter on HIV and AIDS is also excellent, giving a remarkably comprehensive review of this highly complex area of care. The chapter on non-malignant conditions is

very welcome and could usefully be expanded to include other terminal conditions.

I was a little disappointed by the chapters on pain management. There is little practical guidance on which analgesic to choose and how to convert from one analgesic to another or from one route to another. In addition, I think many practitioners would appreciate an explanation of the practical aspects of setting up a syringe driver and details of which drugs are compatible. In my opinion, there is also insufficient emphasis on the need for prophylactic aperients when prescribing opioids, a common omission which causes undue distress.

Palliative care is a uniquely wide ranging subject and the *ABC of palliative care* attempts to cover this in a mere 65 text pages. While each chapter on its own contains clearly presented and relevant information, I feel that its brevity has left this book disjointed, without a coherent message as to what palliative care is really about. In spite of this reservation, I am sure many doctors will find it a useful aid to management when caring for the terminally ill.

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CORRECTION

In the June 1999 issue of the *Postgraduate Medical Journal* we published a review of *Radiology for MRCP* by S Howling and P Jenkins on p 383. In this review the price of the book was incorrectly given as £13.75. The publishers have informed us that the correct price of the book is £19.95. We apologise for this error.