

17th Fortbildungswoche für Praktische Dermatologie und Venereologie in Munich, Germany on **July 23–28, 2000**. Lectures will be held in German. Inf: Fortbildungswoche für Praktische Dermatologie und Venereologie e.V. c/o Department of Dermatology, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Frauenlobstr. 9–11, D-80337 Munich, Germany. Tel: +49-89 5160 6065. Fax: +49-89 5160 6066.

21st Symposium of the International Society of Dermatopathology in Graz, Austria on **September 14–16, 2000**. Inf: Dr Lorenzo Cerroni, Department of Dermatology, University of Graz, Auenbruggerplatz, 8, A-8036 Graz, Austria. Fax: +43-316 385 2466. lorenzo.cerroni@kfunigraz.ac.at.

New Trends in Allergy V in Davos, Switzerland on **September 15–17, 2000**. Inf: Congress Secretariat Prof Ring, Department of Dermatology and Allergology, Technical University of Munich, Biedersteinerstr. 29, D-80802 München, Germany. Tel: +49-8941403205. Fax: +49-41403173. Kongresse.derma@lrz.tum.de

59th Annual Meeting of the AAD in Washington, USA on **March 2–7, 2001**.

The Niels Hjort Prize

The International Contact Dermatitis Research Group encourages research by endowing a Niels Hjort Prize (£2000). Original, unpublished papers are invited, and a committee will then select the winner. The winning entry will be given as a paper at *the 13th International Symposium on Contact Dermatitis* in Montevideo, Uruguay on **November 23–25, 2001**.

The deadline for submission of papers for the Prize is **May 1, 2001**. Please send 6 copies to the Chairman of the International Contact Dermatitis Research Group, Prof. J.-M. Lachapelle, Department of Dermatology, Louvain University, UCL 3033, 30, Clos Chapelleaux-Champs, B-1200 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: +32 2 7643 335; Fax: +32 2 7643 334.

BOOKS REVIEWS

Toxicity Assessment Alternatives. Methods, Issues, Opportunities, edited by Harry Salem and Sidney A. Katz, 1999. 262 pages. ISBN 0-896-03787-8. Hardcover. Price US\$ 99.50. Humana Press, Totowa, NJ, USA

This book reviews alternatives to classical animal toxicity assessment methods. Tissue engineering integrates discoveries about cells and biomaterials to produce three-dimensional composites that have functional properties that can replace defective tissues or measure the effect of external influences. Examples of biomaterials used are collagen, proteoglycans, hyaluronic acid and alginate derivatives. Cell types studied, which are of interest for dermatologists are keratinocytes and fibroblasts. Here models for confocal microscopy for studies of factors influencing keratinocyte differentiation and proliferation are presented as well as studies on and toxic effects of drugs surface antigens on cultured epidermal keratinocyte. Other cell types as muscle bone, stem cells, chondrocytes and hepatocytes have also been investigated. The regulatory approval of the methods are discussed. This book written by several experts is of interest for researchers, especially in the field transplantation and those involved in toxicity studies of drugs and products applied on the skin.

Lennart Juhlin, MD, Professor Department of Dermatology, University Hospital, S-751 85 Uppsala, Sweden

Diagnostic Immunohistochemistry of the Skin, edited by J. Kaniakakis, S. Vassileva & D.T. Woodley, 1998. 0-412-72390-5. Hardcover. Price £85.00. Edward Arnold Publishers Ltd

Quality of Cosmetics; An Explosive Myth? in Stockholm, Sweden on **May 7–9, 2001**. Inf: Stockholm Convention Bureau, PO Box 6911, S-102 39 Stockholm, Sweden. Tel: +46 8 7361500. Fax: +46 8 348441. IFSCC.2001@stocon.se.

International Dermato-Epidemiology Association (IDEA) Annual Meeting in Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands on **June 12–13, 2001**. Inf: Jan Nico Bouwes Bavinck, Department of Dermatology, Leiden University Medical Centre, PB 9600, 2300 RC Leiden, The Netherlands. Fax: +31-50361 2624. jbavinck@knmg.nl.

9th International Congress of Pediatric Dermatology in Cancún, Mexico on **October 20–24, 2001**. Inf: Congress Secretariat, B: P. Servimed S.A. de C.V., Insurgentes Sur 1188507, Col. del Valle, 03210 México, D.F. Tel: 1-52 5575 9931. Fax: +1-52 5 559 9497/575 9937

XIII International Symposium in Contact Dermatitis along with the *I Latinamerican Symposium in Cutaneous Allergy* in Uruguay, **November 23–25, 2001**. Inf: Iris Ale, MD, Organizing Committee, Arazati 1194, 11300 Montevideo, Uruguay. Fax: +59 82 622 0882. irisale@hc.edu.uy

Immunohistochemistry provides complementary, often decisive information allowing identification of cells. It has now grown to the size that it motivates an own volume in dermatological histopathology. Immunofluorescence has been used for more than 40 years and was the main founding technique of immunohistochemistry in dermatology. This book has contributions from several authors. It is concise but also comprehensive. It contains a description of different light microscopy immunohistochemical techniques, with illustrations that are occasionally somewhat difficult to interpret, but where detailed information can be obtained. This is followed by the state of the art of confocal laser scanning microscopy, which provides complementary information on individual cells and cell populations, and immunoelectron microscopy techniques, with its pitfalls and potential difficulties, but which permits study at the subcellular level. Then follows a description of the immunohistochemistry of the normal human skin, and different diagnostic applications, focusing on autoimmune and hereditary bullous diseases, autoimmune and inflammatory dermatoses, cutaneous infections and cutaneous tumours. The references are up to date (1997) and here is also a good index list. With few exceptions the illustrations are of high quality. In conclusion, this is a most valuable book.

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