New Books

Allergic Diseases and the Environment
Nestlé Nutrition Workshop Series-Pediatric Program, Vol 53 Edited by Erika Isolauri, W Allan Walker. KARGER. XVI + 324 p, 19 fig, 31 tab, hard cover, 2004. CHF228.-/EUR163.-/USD 198.25. ISBN 38055-7649-8

During the last two decades the increase in allergic diseases in children, such as atopic dermatitis and asthma has been dramatic. However, this is not true for the entire world: the incidence of allergies in children has risen only in developed countries. The observation of this socio-geographic discrepancy has led to careful study of the environmental differences that exist between the diverse settings in which children are born and has resulted in the so-called "hygiene hypothesis": the "sterility" of modern hospitals and birth places in the developed world might lead to a lack of microbial stimulation required for the development of a balanced mucosal immune response, including expansion of T-helper (Th) cell subsets that can mediate immune responses. Therefore, this workshop was held to consider in depth the environmental factors that influence the changing pattern of worldwide childhood allergy.

This publication is a valuable source of knowledge and update for nutritionists, pediatricians, immunologists, microbiologists, as well as professionals concerned with preventive medicine.

New aspects of CMV-related immunopathology
(Monographs in Virology, Vol 24)
Edited by S. Prösch, J Cinatl, M Scholz. KARGER. X + 212 p., 61 fig, 6 in color, 7 tab. Hard cover, 2003. CHF188.-/EUR134.50/USD163.50. ISBN 3-8055--7618-8

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection causes severe diseases in immunocompromised patients. CMV-related morbidity is frequently linked to aberrant immune responses occurring locally within the respective tissues including immune-privileged sites such as the retina. There is growing evidence that CMV-related pathomechanisms differ profoundly as a function of cell type and differentiation state of the host cell.

This book provides important new insights into CMV-related immunopathology, discusses molecular mechanisms involved in HCMV-mediated tissue injury, CMV latency and reactivation, and presents novel ideas and concepts to develop alternative antiviral drugs. As an important focus, the role of CMV-reactive T cells in protection, pathogenesis, diagnosis and therapy of HCMV infection is discussed.

The contributions to this book are written by leading scientists and clinicians in the field of CMV who participated in the fourth international meeting on CMV-related immunopathology, held in Berlin, September 2002.

Comprehensive and up-to-date, this volume is a vital reference for clinicians involved in the diagnosis and treatment of CMV infections, as well as for researchers working in the field of herpesvirus biology and the development of antiviral drugs.

Animal models of human inflammatory skin diseases
Edited by Lawrence S. Chan. CRC PRESS. Hard cover. 2004. ISBN 0-8493-1391-0.

Animal models of human inflammatory skin diseases features the principles and practices of how to go about studying inflammatory skin diseases using live animal models. On the principle side, the book describes the comparative structure and function of the skin and the comparative immunology system in animal species commonly used as models. From the practical perspective, it presents a general discussion on methods of experimental animal modeling and contains specific expert experience on individual models. The authors include a detailed method of disease induction for each model, present chapters on comparative structure and function of the skin and immunology, and discuss potential targets of disease intervention.

Features:
- Contains comprehensive information on a variety of animal models of inflammatory skin diseases
- Provides theoretical guidance in experimental animal modeling
- Supplies technical instruction in the induction and assessment of experimental animal models of inflammatory skin diseases
- Includes chapters on comparative structure and function of the skin and immunology
- Presents information for potential targets of immunological intervention

Written by biomedical investigators with first-hand experience in their chosen fields, this book is a valuable guide and reference for investigators in the biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences. It provides an instan-

taneous comparison between the skin structure and immunology of humans and animals, aiding in the interpretation of pathologic and immunologic findings.

ITCH. Basic mechanisms and therapy
(Basic and Clinical Dermatology Series/27)
Edited by Gil Yosipovitch, Malcolm Greaves, Alan B Fleischer Jr, Francis McGlone. MARCEL DEKKER INC. January 2004. 416 pp. 107 illus. ISBN 0-8247-4747-X

This blue-ribbon reference compiles the latest research and recommendations from leading specialists in the field to offer a concise and multidisciplinary discussion of the basic aspects of itch, diseases in which itch serves as a major component, and recent procedures for the assessment and control of itch in patient care.

Presents current treatment regimens, new approaches to itch control, and examinations of clinical trials in progress.

Providing a detailed and multidimensional overview of itch pathophysiology, this book:

- Proposes a clinical classification of itch based on the latest research
- Examines itch in diseases including atopic dermatitis, uremic and hepatic itch, HIV, and psychosomatic disorders
- Covers special topics such as itch in burn patients and nauropathic itch
- Details effective techniques and strategies for the diagnosis, management, and evaluation of patients with itch conditions
- Focuses on the epidemiology and characteristics of itch in skin and systemic diseases.