

BOOK REVIEWS

Digestive Diseases Clinical Reviews. IBD and IBS: novel mechanisms and future practice. TRAVIS S.P.L., SPILLER R.C., COLOMBEL J.-F., HOLZER P. (editors). S. Karger AG, Basel, 2010. IV + 150 p., 22 fig., 13 tab., hard cover. ISBN : 978-3-8055-9385-4. e-ISBN : 978-3-8055-9386-1. Price : CHF 56,00, € 40.00, \$ 56.00.



This book gathers different state-of-the-art lectures presented at the meeting “On the interface between IBD and IBS” organized by Falk Foundation on the 11-12th of September 2009 in Glasgow, UK. The different chapters are written by leading researchers in their specific fields of expertise and cover different topics underlin-

ing the similarities and discrepancies between IBS and IBD.

Chapters are included on : visceral and somatic pain ; peripheral and central pain pathways ; the role of emotion and stress ; the pharmacology of pain discussing on the one hand peripheral receptors and mediators and on the other hand central factors including the influence of inflammation on both ; the microbial gut flora and yeasts and novel therapeutic implications such as probiotic therapy for IBD and aminosalicylates for the treatment of IBS. The different chapters provide an overview of the scientific literature and expert’s expectations on the specific topic addressing physiology, pathophysiology, overlap between IBS and IBD and remaining or sprouting future research questions. The final chapters of this book are dedicated to other inflammatory gastrointestinal conditions such as eosinophilic esophagitis, mastocytosis and collagenous and lymphocytic colitis focusing on eosinophils, mast cells and lymphocytes.

As inflammation and pain are phenomena present in both diseases, it is certainly worthwhile to explore the overlap between the IBD and IBS research fields. However, only the presence of these conditions does not allow blind extrapolation from the IBS research field towards IBD and vice versa. Differences in pathogenesis between the two major gastroenterological disease entities remain concerning the degree of inflammation, the role of peripheral versus central pain processing pathways as well as the mediators and neurotransmitters involved and the impact of the gut microbial flora with attention to the yeasts.

This book gives the readers an interesting overview of current findings in IBS, IBD, inflammation in general and pain-processing in inflammatory conditions broad-

ening our minds and suggesting us to take into account results and perspectives of other related fields. The different chapters can be read stand-alone, however the entire entity gives an intriguing mix of IBD and IBS research and the possible pathogenic and therapeutic consequences.

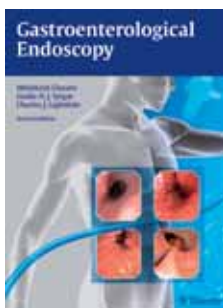
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Gastroenterological Endoscopy. MEINHARD CLASSEN, GUIDO N.J. TYTGAT, CHARLES J. LIGHTDALE (editors). Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany ; 2nd edition 2010, 620 pages, 1500 mostly coloured illustrations, 171 tables ; hard cover. ISBN 978-3-13-125852-6. Price : € 259.95.



Seven years after the 1st edition of *Gastroenterological Endoscopy* the editors present the 2nd and updated edition of this masterpiece of GI endoscopy. The contributors for this edition are outstanding endoscopists from all over the world who all have widespread experience in GI endoscopy and are the authors of important and milestone publications in given areas of this specialty.

This book is made up of 10 parts. The first part covers “the development of endoscopy”. It comprises an easy-reading overview of the history of digestive endoscopy and furthermore elaborates on themes such as quality assurance and evidence-based endoscopy. Especially this latter contribution is worth reading and keeping into mind before interpreting results of new technology and implementing them in daily practice.

The second part is entitled “the patient and endoscopy”. It contains information on informed consent, patient sedation and disinfection. If you plan to restyle your endoscopy suite, first read the chapter on the endoscopy suite and its equipment in this booklet. A small chapter is dedicated on “teaching and learning”. A nice overview on the available training models in diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy is presented.

The fourth chapter covers “diagnostic procedures and techniques”. Although this may seem superfluous for an experienced endoscopist, it does contain surprising insights in our daily routine practice. Fellows in GI endoscopy will find this chapter very helpful during training. All diagnostic procedures from top to bottom are explained in detail and in this edition new imaging technology (magnifying chromo-endoscopy, NBI, confocal microscopy) are placed in the right perspective. Gastro-enterologists will especially appreciate an illustrative chapter on NOTES and minimally invasive surgery.

In the fifth chapter on ‘therapeutic procedures’ the authors choose to divide it into the different technologies : hemostasis, laser, dilation, polypectomy, stenting, sphincterotomy, etc... Most of the chapters start with a technical but very comprehensive note on the applied technology, followed by the correct use of the discussed technique. Some chapters are very practical for the practitioner (e.g. polypectomy), others are more theoretical. By making a choice for discussion by therapeutic procedure, some specific endoscopic procedures are not discussed thoroughly, e.g. Zenker’s diverticulotomy and ampullectomy. On the other hand lot of attention is given to endoscopic treatment for GERD, of which most modalities have been abandoned. Ablation therapy for Barrett’s esophagus does not receive much attention, but this undoubtedly has to do with the very recent development of this technology and this will certainly be adapted in the next edition.

The next four chapters cover respectively upper and lower GI tract diseases, biliopancreatic-hepatic-peritoneal diseases and infectious diseases. Not all GI diseases are discussed : only those in which endoscopy plays an important role in diagnosis and/or treatment. Even anorectal disease is added to this chapter. Several themes show overlap with the previous chapters (eg hemostasis of bleeding, polypectomy, biliary sphincterotomy and stenting). Actually these 4 chapters don’t bring new information that every gastro-enterologist does not already know, except for a lot of endoscopic pictures of frequent and rare diseases. In this regard these chapters can also be seen as an endoscopy atlas.

The last chapter on pediatric endoscopy highlights the special condition of newborns and small children undergoing endoscopy (upper, lower, EUS and ERCP).

This 3.7 kg weighing book is not an item that you carry in your briefcase every day going to hospital. It belongs in your bookcase or – even better – on your desk where it will undoubtedly draw the envious attention of your colleagues gastroenterologists and surgeons. Now and then you will enjoy reading a chapter that will confirm your daily practice, or that will change it because you are struck by new insights from the most updated literature.

Fellows and residents should read the book from page 0 until 805 : it’s the ideal course text during training in GI endoscopy. Some chapters (especially those on diag-

nostic and therapeutic procedures) should even be studied before and during the training period. It would make life of trainees and trainers a lot easier.... and – most importantly – make patient care safer.

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Liver Conference. Falk Workshop 2009 “Immunology and Liver Disease” by M.E. GERSHWIN, A.W. LOHSE, M.P. MANNS, D. VERGANI ; and **Falk Symposium 171 “Liver and Metabolic Syndrome”** by C.P. DAY, A.M. DIEHL, H. LEHNERT, M.P. MANNS, F. NEGRO. Special issue : **‘Digestive Diseases 2010, Vol. 28, No 1’**, Editors : GERSHWIN M.E. *et al.* S. Karger AG (Basel), 2010. 304 p., 80 fig., 26 tab., soft cover. ISBN : 978-3-8055-9425-7. e-ISBN : 978-3-8055-9426-4. Price : € 40.



The book is the result of 2 Falk meetings, organized in 2009 in Hannover.

The first part deals with the workshop on immunology and liver disease. It contains a list of contributions by experts in the fields of immunology and autoimmune hepatitis. Different

aspects of basic immunological mechanisms are discussed, dealing with physiopathology of auto-immune liver disease. The clinical aspects are limited to the treatment of auto-immune hepatitis, with a comprehensive but short review by Christian Strassburg. Auto-immune biliary disease is even so discussed, as well as the role of immunological mechanisms in viral hepatitis and hepatocellular carcinoma.

As this part of the book deals with a lot of basic research, it is of relevance (as a brief and concise overview of the current knowledge in the field) to physicians with a specific interest in immunology and immune-mediated liver disease, and to scientists in the field. It is, however, less relevant to those searching for a more clinical review on auto-immune liver disease, which is clearly beyond the scope of this book.

The second chapter deals with a lot of aspects of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in relation to the metabolic syndrome. Most of the contributions are well written and of clinical relevance. The different chapters reflect a wide but quite complete range of different aspects, of interest for our current understanding of both non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and the metabolic syndrome. Some contributions are also dedicated to the specific

role of hepatitis C in insulin resistance. This part of the book can be recommended to physicians interested in a complete and clinically relevant overview of the interplay between the liver and the metabolic syndrome, which appears to be a vice versa interaction and not a unidirectional relation.

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Else Kröner-Fresenius-Symposia, series Editor :
Pahernik S. (Heidelberg). **Vol 1 : “Molecular Mechanisms of Adult Stem Cell Aging”**, edited by Dr K.L.RUDOLPH (Ulm). S. Karger AG, Basel, 2010, XII + 108 p., 21 fig., hard cover, 2010. ISBN : 978-3-8055-9243-7. e-ISBN : 978-3-8055-9244-4. Price : € 56,50



This book summarizes the studies presented during the first Else Kröner-Fresenius Symposium on Stem Cell Aging, held in May 2009.

The book covers the molecular, epigenetic and genetic cell-intrinsic basis of stem cell ageing as well as the role played by the ageing of cellular microenvironment, or stem cell niche, that have recently been demonstrated to play a role in the senescence of stem cells, and associated medical diseases.

Owing to the knowledge acquired in the field of hematopoietic stem cells during the last 4 decades, extensive attention is given to the current knowledge of hematopoietic stem cell senescence in 4 consecutive chapters addressing cell intrinsic and cell extrinsic events that cause ageing-induced exhaustion of the stem cell pool, and the associated development of hematopoietic malignancies. These are followed by two chapters wherein the ageing of more recently identified tissue specific stem cells, including from the intestinal tract and skeletal muscle.

Although differences are obviously present between the different stem cell systems, the book clearly elaborates that similar mechanisms appear to be operative that govern senescence, both intrinsic to the stem cells and in their local or macro-environment. The role of changed responses to cytokines and morphogens, defects in cell cycle regulation and DNA damage responses with or without changes in the transcriptional machinery factors and/or the epigenetic regulatory machinery due to ageing is well described, and similarities between the different stem cell systems clearly discussed.

Even though the different chapters are written by multiple authors, not necessarily the presenters at the

symposium, the book tells a story that is well integrated. Lacking, however, from the discussion are studies related to neural stem cells, which like intestinal and muscle stem cells, have extensively been evaluated over the last decade, including senescence of this stem cell system. Although no neural stem cell specialist was present at the symposium, the editor and authors could have included references to the neural system throughout the chapters.

Despite the pace with which this field of knowledge advances, the information provided is up to date, and experts in this field and non-experts interested in stem cell biology and its relationship with organismal ageing, alike, will learn something new from this set of reviews.

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