**Book Reviews**

David J. Dries, Book Review Editor

**MICROBIAL DNA AND HOST IMMUNITY**

*Editor:* Eyal Raz, MD

*Bibliographic Data:* Humana Press Inc., 2002. ISBN: 1-588-29022-0, 408 pp, hard cover, $125.00.

**Reviewer’s Expert Opinion:**

*Description:* This book contains a series of reviews on immunostimulatory DNA. Aspects of receptor recognition, signaling pathways, utility in vaccine development, and several direct applications are discussed. *Purpose:* The goal is to provide a broad overview of the properties and applications of specific DNA sequences known to stimulate host immune responses. This is a worthwhile endeavor and the book is of value. *Audience:* The target audience includes a broad range of scientists working on immune mechanisms, vaccine development, and related areas. The material will be of interest to graduate students, research fellows, and senior investigators. The chapters are authored by reputable and experienced scientists. *Features:* The current interest in vaccine development makes this a timely contribution. Since the routine adjuvants usually employed in animal studies are not suitable for use in man, new strategies to enhance host immune response are constantly sought. The unmethylated CpG repeats common in bacterial DNA have been known for some years to exert a stimulatory effect on immune responses. This book reviews these effects in a set of 31 chapters. Following two introductory, largely historical chapters, aspects of receptor recognition, signaling pathways, and cellular effects are reviewed. These sections are followed by discussions of various vaccination strategies including application to cancer, allergy and autoimmune disease. Each chapter has a suitable bibliography thus providing a broad set of references. Investigators interested in the overall utility of these DNA sequences will find useful material. As with many similar books, a chapter highlighting limitations and caveats would have been valuable. *Assessment:* This is a valuable addition to the vaccinology library. Interest in this area is high and the book is timely.

*Reviewer:* Eugene A. Davidson, PhD (Georgetown University School of Medicine)

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**HANDBOOK OF AUTOPSY PRACTICE, 3RD EDITION**

*Editor:* Jurgen Ludwig, MD

*Bibliographic Data:* Humana Press Inc., 2002. ISBN: 1-588-29169-3, 592 pp, hard cover, $149.50.

**Reviewer’s Expert Opinion:**

*Description:* This is the third edition of the autopsy handbook prepared originally by Dr. Ludwig some 30 years ago. The previous edition was published in 1979. *Purpose:* This revised and updated handbook was prepared for practicing pathologists and residents in pathology. It is aimed at the prosecutors to guide them through the autopsy and also help them find the essential information relevant for the interpretation of the autopsy data. These worthy objectives have been met and surpassed. *Audience:* This book will be used primarily by residents in pathology, but it should be also available to practicing pathologists and forensic pathologists and their assistants. Medical students should have ready access to this book during their autopsy rotations. Dr. Ludwig, by now an emeritus consultant, has been professor and has directed the autopsy service at the Mayo Clinic for the last few decades. He is one of the world authorities on autopsy and this is his classic contribution to the field. *Features:* The book consists of three sections. The first deals with autopsy techniques and postmortem laboratory procedures. The second section deals with the most important pathological entities encountered at autopsy. The third section contains normal weights and measurements of various organs. Several pathologists, mostly from Mayo Clinic, have contributed to the book and with their expertise have given additional assurance that the book is up-to-date and authoritative. *Assessment:* This is a meticulous update of the classic textbook of autopsy practice. Dr. Ludwig’s book has taught many generations of pathologists in training to perform autopsies and has served many practicing pathologists as a reference in the autopsy room. Thus it was a pity that it went out of print for the last 10 years or so. The entire pathology community owes Dr. Ludwig a note of gratitude for updating his classic book for the future generations. This is an essential book for all practicing hospital-based pathologists and is absolutely indispensable for residents learning to perform and interpret autopsies. In my opinion this is the best autopsy handbook in the English language and it deserves to be widely read, cherished and used.

*Reviewer:* Ivan Damjanov, MD, PhD (University of Kansas Medical Center)

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**DUPLEX SCANNING IN VASCULAR DISORDERS, 3RD EDITION**

*Author:* D. Eugene Strandness, Jr., MD

*Bibliographic Data:* Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2002. ISBN: 0-7817-2631-X, NLM: WG 500, LC: RC691.6, 493 pp, hard cover, $155.00.
Reviewer’s Expert Opinion:

Description: This book represents the lifelong work of Dr. Eugene Strandness and a group of dedicated vascular technologists at University of Washington, the Mecca for noninvasive testing. Dr. Strandness passed away recently but he left an indelible mark in the development of vascular diagnosis. It is his persistent pursuit of hemodynamic principle and technology that firmly established duplex scanning as a dominant noninvasive test in the diagnosis and evaluation of vascular disorders. Purpose: The design of the book is to provide standards for techniques and interpretation of duplex scan in the diagnosis of various vascular disorders. Audience: Vascular surgeons, radiologists, and those technologists who perform the test will find this to be a complete book on duplex scan. It is a must-read for vascular trainees and those who are involved in the vascular laboratory. Features: The book is divided into four sections. Section 1 covers the basic considerations in hemodynamics and various disorders in 10 chapters. This is followed by 18 chapters in Section 2 on study technique and interrogation of various tests. This section is very complete and covers nearly every current noninvasive test using duplex scan. Illustrations are excellent and ample color photographs are available to illustrate the salient features by color-flow Doppler. Duplex scan is technologist-dependent and the additional input by technologists added valuable information in these chapters. The last two sections provide the basic ingredients for a vascular laboratory, the examination worksheets, and samples of reports. The book ends with an appendix on physics and instrumentation for duplex scan, nicely written by K. Beach; this should probably have been placed in Section 1 because of the importance of the subject. Assessment: No other current books are available to provide complete coverage of duplex scanning in vascular disorders. The book stands on its own merit as the gold standard for one of the important diagnostic tests in modern times.

Reviewer: James S. T. Yao, MD, PhD (Northwestern Memorial Hospital)

INFORMED INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICE, 2ND EDITION

Authors: Rozila Horton, MPhil, RGN; Lynn Parker, MSc, RGN

Bibliographic Data: W.B. Saunders Company, 2002. Imprint: Churchill Livingstone Inc. ISBN: 0-443-07102-0, 300 pp, hard cover, $74.95.

Reviewer’s Expert Opinion:

Description: This book on infection control is divided into two sections—the first covers management and the second looks at infection control and practice. The first edition was published in 1997. Purpose: The book has been updated to comply with changes in the National Health Service in the U.K. It is written as a resource for infection control professionals. The book meets the objective of the author, providing excellent information in a user friendly book. Audience: The book is written for infection control professionals. I think it would be suitable for the new ICP or someone who has been in practice. Features: The first section of the book concerns the role of infection control, management of the program, and knowledge management. The chapter on knowledge management is particularly good and filled with resources. A possible problem in the book may be that its hospital management is based on the British system, but it is a useful resource for the ICP. Infection control concepts are universal. The chapter on infection control in developing countries is unique and informative. I have not seen this information covered in other IC manuals. The second section of the book covers infection control knowledge and practice. The basics are reviewed, such as microbiology and the chain of infection. There is an excellent chart on disease transmission. Assessment: This would be comparable to a book such as the APIC Handbook of Infection Control, put out by the Association of Professionals in Infection Control, and Epidemiology, Inc., edited by Jan Jennings, BSMT, MS, CIC and Joan Wideman MT, SLS, MS, CIC.

Reviewer: Patricia Ann Rosenbaum, RN (Johns Hopkins Hospital)