

**NON-INVASIVE BRAIN IMAGING: COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY AND RADIONUCLIDES**, Harold J. DeBlanc, Jr., and James A. Sorenson, eds. New York, Society of Nuclear Medicine, 1975, 220 pp, \$19.00.

*Non-Invasive Brain Imaging: Computed Tomography and Radionuclides*, edited by Harold J. DeBlanc, Jr., and James A. Sorenson, is a compilation of papers presented at a symposium in Salt Lake City in January 1975. Sponsored by the Society of Nuclear Medicine, the symposium provided a forum in which to examine the roles of computerized transaxial tomography (CTT) and radionuclide brain imaging in the diagnosis of brain disease. The contributors include many of the pioneering investigators of CTT scanning and individuals with many years of experience in radionuclide imaging.

The first two chapters describe the state of the art in radionuclide studies, with a thorough review of the experience at Johns Hopkins Hospital between 1962 and 1972. The next five chapters discuss concepts in radionuclide imaging now under development, including the use of new radionuclides and the various radionuclide transaxial tomography and emission tomography units developed by Kuhl, Anger, and Ter-Pogossian. The later articles compare the clinical applications of CTT and radionuclide imaging as practiced at a number of medical centers.

This volume is undoubtedly the first of many texts on the subject of CTT scanning. It introduces a question that will occupy many future symposia, panel discussions, and parleys in "smoke-filled rooms," namely, "What is the role of radionuclide imaging with the advent of CTT imaging?" This text is a first step toward providing an answer. Obviously, the answer was not provided at the symposium, nor is it currently available, but Chapter 12, a panel discussion on "The Past, Present, and Future of Non-Invasive Brain Imaging," is well worth reading.

*Non-Invasive Brain Imaging* is recommended for all physicians engaged in the practice of nuclear medicine or involved with CTT scanning.

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**RADIONUCLIDE ANGIOGRAPHY** (Audio-visual program, 85 slides with 30-min cassette tape), Leonard M. Freeman and M. Donald Blaufox, Carle Place, N.Y., Nuclear Associates, \$135.

This audiovisual program is organized in two parts: introductory and clinical. In the introductory section, instrumentation and radionuclides are treated in an elementary manner. The pictorial presentation on intravenous injection methods is excellent. Information on the technique of Oldendorf et al and the saline-flush technique is timely in this type of teaching aid. The clinical section presents a large number of studies that include dynamic radionuclide angiography of the cerebral vessels, heart, great vessels, pulmonary vessels, and kidneys. The individual dynamic images are of high quality and are frequently accompanied by graphical drawings simulating the anatomy involved. The

cases chosen by the authors are classical and illustrate the point in question clearly. The set is accompanied by a small examination of 20 questions.

The slides and tapes are of excellent quality. Residents, students, and clinicians with limited knowledge of nuclear medicine will find this study program useful as an introduction to radionuclide angiography.

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**MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LAW**, Angela Roddey Holder, J.D. New York, Wiley, 1975, 561 pp, \$22.50.

Considering the way the mere mention of malpractice provokes a negative response and concomitant anti-lawyer sentiment in doctors, it is heartening that the author, herself a lawyer, would choose to compile this compendium of medical-legal information for the physician. The book is organized into successive topics and subtopics that address themselves to a host of problems: the types of contractual agreements between doctors and patients, what factors constitute "due care," the ramifications of misdiagnosis, the errors of technical personnel, informed consent to treatment, termination of the physician-patient relationship, libel actions, defenses to malpractice actions, and the legal process in a malpractice case. Comprehension of the contents is further enhanced by the presentation of relevant case histories taken from the author's experience and actual court decisions. The succinct presentation of this enormous amount of factual information makes the reading surprisingly easy and allows the reader to recall expeditiously the salient points in the discussion.

Although a brief bibliography follows each chapter, the book is further augmented by an extensive final bibliography, which includes an array of court decisions listed individually and by regional jurisdiction. Unfortunately, I cannot attest to the utility of this form of presentation because the case titles do not include their point of judgment and their texts are not available in most libraries. These cases, however, may provide the physician with needed source material in certain situations. In my estimation, *Medical Malpractice Law* best serves as a concise textbook of practical forensic medicine and predictably will have its greatest impact on physicians in training, although it would be a valuable addition to any practitioner's medical library.

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**SYNOPSIS OF GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY**, Philip J. DiSaia, C. Paul Morrow, and Duane E. Townsend. New York, Wiley, 1975, 334 pp, \$19.50.

Reviewing this synopsis was a real pleasure for me, because of my own personal interest in the field. The book is relatively well organized. The first chapters are devoted to the staging of malignant tumors of the female pelvis and

also to the general rules for tumor classification, as outlined by the International Federation. The chapter dealing with preinvasive carcinoma of the cervix is well handled, and the flow sheet provided is particularly useful for organizing one's thoughts on the management of patients with repeated inconclusive cytology. The logistics of management in such patients is frequently a problem for the gynecologist who deals with these problems infrequently.

The section on irradiation physics and irradiation biology is fairly well done and, by and large, understandable to the average gynecologist, although it might take two or three readings. The chapter dealing with invasive carcinoma of the cervix is excellent. The illustrations are excellent, and the principles are well explained. Of particular interest and usefulness is the section on radiation injury, which practicing gynecologists are not infrequently called upon to evaluate. The chapter dealing with colposcopy suffers a bit because of its brevity and the lack of better illustrations, but the text is well done and quite understandable.

The chapter on adenocarcinoma of the endometrium gives a very good account of the biology of the disease. In particular, it explores a relatively new concept in the management of endometrial carcinoma: the use of postoperative radiation. However, the protocol for management of endometrial carcinoma is presented as if the precepts are very clear-cut, which they are not. The treatment protocols outlined are merely those preferred by the authors, who pay little attention to other possibilities. Of course, no small outline-type handbook could fully explore all the varied treatment modalities. Also, providing the practicing gynecologist with too many alternatives to choose from will often make him give

up in utter frustration and look for other authors to tell him exactly what he should do.

The chapter devoted to the management of ovarian tumors is another excellent presentation, with good documentation of fact and fancy. The illustrations are excellent, and the listing of drug dosages will be exceedingly useful for the practicing gynecologist.

Some segments of the chapter on chemotherapy bog down in the complex details of intermediary metabolism, which could be a little difficult for the practicing gynecologist to digest. Nevertheless, the discussion of the chemotherapeutic agents is complete, the side effects are well illustrated, and the usefulness of the drugs well documented.

The section devoted to the general aspects of tumor immunology is very timely. This subject is now at the very forefront of gynecologic research and the book presents the reader with some insight into the fundamentals of tumor immunology and the vocabulary used in the field.

All in all, *Synopsis of Gynecologic Oncology* is a textbook that would be most useful to the average practicing gynecologist and one that really belongs on the bookshelf of every physician who deals, even occasionally, with gynecologic malignancy. It suffers slightly by virtue of the fact that it is a synopsis of gynecologic oncology and leaves one a little thirsty for more information concerning various aspects of the disease states. This, however, is not the fault of the authors, as it was their purpose to present something compact enough for the physician to use effectively.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Education and Research Foundation of the Society of Nuclear Medicine welcomes applications for two of its projects.

- **Medical Student Fellowship Program:** This educational project is designed to stimulate interest among medical students in the United States and Canada in the field of nuclear medicine. It will make it possible for interested and qualified students to spend elective quarters and summers in active nuclear medicine laboratories working and associating with experts in the field. Maximum grant: \$1,000. Application letters in duplicate, including a description of the project and budget, should be sent to the President of the Foundation, c/o Society of Nuclear Medicine, 475 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10116.
- **Pilot Research Grants in Nuclear Medicine:** The goal of this research support is to provide limited sums of money to scientists to support deserving projects that are pilot in nature. It is hoped that it will make it possible for nuclear medicine scientists to apply for small sums of money for clinical and basic research and to get a decision within a short time following application. The grants will not support salaries, major equipment purchases or travel, but are designed to provide essential materials so that innovative ideas can be quickly tested. Maximum grant \$1,000. Application forms are available from the President of the Foundation, c/o Society of Nuclear Medicine, 475 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016.