

## BOOK REVIEWS

ing (among other ingredients) "solubilizing agents," whereas surface-active or "suspending agents" is meant.

This book can serve as a useful text for a course in radiopharmacy, if the instructor corrects and clarifies where necessary. Despite its good points, however, it cannot be recommended to the novice pharmacist or nuclear medicine technologist for independent study or reference. Nonetheless, this book could meet the needs of physicists, biologists, and other professionals who have minimal training in the basic concepts of pharmacy but are called upon to prepare radiopharmaceuticals for parenteral administration. For this group the book has the greatest potential value, and with the necessary corrections in a subsequent edition this potential can be reached.

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**ORIGINS OF HUMAN CANCER.** H. H. Hiatt, J. D. Watson, and J. A. Winsten, eds. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1977, 1889 pp, illustrated. index, 3-book set. \$60.00.

The September 1976, Cold Spring Harbor Conferences on Cell Proliferation assembled a significant group of scientists for a symposium focused on the multi-faceted approach to current cancer research. Individual presentations from representatives of a number of disciplines were requested to promote better understanding of the research and policy problems in a variety of fields all having the common goal of cancer prevention. This three-volume set summarizes the work of the conference.

Book A is devoted to the incidence of cancer in humans and contains papers that examine the effects of geography and genetic background, occupation, industrial and agricultural chemicals, air and water pollutants, drugs, radiation and diet. Book B, *Mechanisms of Carcinogenesis*, contains 38 reports subdivided into sections on electrophilicity, modifying factors, aryl hydroxylase genetics, damage to DNA and its repair, DNA viruses, and RNA viruses. The third book, *Human Risk Assessment*, contains the collected presentations on animal cancer tests, predictive value of short-term assays, possible dietary carcinogens, public policy panels, and proposals for setting further strategies and standards relating to environmental carcinogens.

The entire collection consists of 123 papers, from basic

research presentations to arranged discussions with representatives of government, industry, science, and the news media. These stimulating question-and-answer sessions are concentrated in Book C and follow papers dealing with the complex problems of government regulation and the social impact of topics such as the use of diethylstilbesterol (DES) to increase meat production. In addition, the visible and vocal concern of citizens over possible carcinogens in the environment is reflected by the number of papers regarding research in these areas. It seems apparent that at this time the mere mention of the word "nuclear" is enough to prompt heated discussions not only at social functions but also at scientific meetings. For that reason the nuclear medicine physician may find many chapters in this set profitable reading—e.g., "Estimates of the Cancer Risk Due to Nuclear Power Generation."

This comprehensive symposium report contains a great amount of information; and as an aid to the reader for locating particular items of interest, the editors have added section subject titles in the table of contents and extensive author and subject indices. Mistakes are infrequent but perturbing, particularly in the author index, where some participants with the same surname have been confused. The indices appear only in Book C, which is also a minor inconvenience.

In the final article, J. Cairns notes that "the origins of human cancer is not a topic that can be reviewed or summarized in a systematic, logical way," and so it is with this collection—it is simply too large to review in its entirety. The three volumes will provide the reader with a source book of current oncology research, and each paper concludes with a reference list so that more extensive information is easily obtained. Because the conference was held in 1976 some of the material is already outdated, but this seems unavoidable.

*Origins of Human Cancer* may not be of direct importance to the clinical practice of nuclear medicine, but it is a valuable reference edition of current concepts in oncology.

(The remarkably low price for the three-book set is the result of supporting grants from the Rita Allen Foundation and the Charles E. Merrill Trust.)

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## BOOKS RECEIVED

*Gynecologic Oncology*, Larry McGowan. 435 pp, illustrated. New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1978. \$35.00.

*Radioimmunoassay and Related Procedures in Medicine - 1977, Volume 1. Proceedings of an International Symposium on Radioimmunoassay and Related Procedures in Medicine Held by the International Atomic Energy Agency in Co-Operation with the World Health Organization in Berlin (West), 31 October-4 November, 1977.* 539 pp, illustrated. Vienna, International Atomic Energy Agency, 1978. \$43.00.

*Cancer Therapy by Hyperthermia and Radiation*, Christian Stregger, D. van Beuningen, F. Dietzel, E. Rottinger, J.E. Robinson, E. Scherer, S. Seeber, K.-R. Trott, eds. 344 pp, illustrated. Baltimore/Munich, Urban & Schwarzenberg, 1978. \$39.50.

*Thallium-201 Myocardial Imaging*, James L. Ritchie, Glen W. Hamilton, Frans J. Th. Wackers, eds. 154 pp, illustrated. New York, Raven Press, 1978. \$14.50.

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