

reminds us of the important developments we have missed, and, of course, adroitly steers us in the right direction to "catch up."

Whereas a simple series of current literature summaries without editorial comment would perhaps serve as well to reinforce our knowledge of important developments and make us aware of new directions we have overlooked, the editors' brief and sometimes pithy remarks add interest and strength to the volume. Only very rarely are the editorial remarks sufficiently harsh to detract from their usefulness, and this tendency is, happily, less visible in 1979 than in some previous years.

Each of the major areas in nuclear medicine is well represented, and an excellent balance is maintained between clinically-oriented articles and research-oriented works. Moreover, the research topics are covered in great clarity, so that practicing radionuclide clinicians will not be "put off" by reams of "gobble-de-gook."

As a reviewer, I have spent long days and sleepless nights attempting to come up with a reasonably justifiable criticism of the 1979 yearbook; however, after such consideration, the facts remain—the 1979 *Yearbook of Nuclear Medicine* is a brief, clear, and well-balanced volume that is an invaluable addition to our bookshelf.

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ULTRASOUND IN TUMOR DIAGNOSIS. C. R. Hill, V. R. McCready, D. O. Cosgrove, eds. Great Britain, The Pitman Press, 1979. (distributed by Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc.) 285 pp. \$30.00.

This treatise represents the combined efforts of 22 contributors from six countries in delineating the historical development, current accomplishments, and future hopes of ultrasound in tumor

diagnosis. The unique depiction of tissue organization and physical structure obtained in echograms was recognized quite early in the medical applications of this technique, and the early investigative approaches are described and discussed along with their influence on the subsequent development of this field. The physical basis of tumor detection using pulsed-echo ultrasound is presented along with the current limitations these characteristics impose in various organs and sites of the human body.

The mid-portion of the book is devoted to clinically applicable ultrasonic imaging methodology useful in diagnosing tumors of the eye and orbit, thyroid, breast, liver, pancreas, urinary bladder, kidneys, adrenals, and female reproductive system, with one chapter devoted primarily to ultrasonically guided biopsy procedures. The clinical material is well detailed with excellent illustration of scans obtained in the various disease entities.

The concluding chapters deal with tissue characterization *in vivo* by ultrasound backscattering analysis, a topic of intense research interest at this time; and with an excellent analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the various imaging techniques including x-radiography, computed transmission tomography, ultrasound, nuclear medicine, and thermomography as well as possible contributions to be anticipated from nuclear magnetic resonance.

Major strengths of this book are the cohesion with which the various developments in ultrasonic tumor diagnosis are presented and the perspective lent by the integration of historical, futuristic, and interdisciplinary points of view. It is recommended reading for all currently involved in tumor diagnosis using diagnostic ultrasound and for those looking toward the combined focusing of diagnostic imaging modalities in a way that will utilize the full advantages of each in tumor detection and characterization.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

Lymphographie—Anatomie, Technik, Diagnostik. K.H. Gunter Muller. 60 pp, illustrated, Berlin/Heidelberg/New York, Springer-Verlag, Inc., 1979, \$24.50

Medical Applications of Fluorescent Excitation Analysis. Leon Kaufman and David C. Price, eds. 166 pp, illustrated, Boca Raton, FL, CRC Press, 1979, \$49.95 in U.S., \$57.50 outside U.S.

Synchrotron Radiation Applied to Biophysical and Biochemical Research A. Castellani and I.F. Quircia, eds. 390 pp, illustrated, Plenum Publishing Corp., 1979, \$39.50.

Radionuclide Techniques in Medicine. Joan M. McAlister. 229 pp, illustrated, New York (Cambridge and London), Cambridge University Press, 1980, \$34.50 hard cover, \$10.95 paperback