

orthodontic and orthognathic residents for some time to come.

As with all Quintessence publications, the

layout is delicate and the book is highly recommended.

Olaf Krogstad

Cellular Aging and Cell Death (1996)

Nikki J. Holbrook, George R. Martin and Richard A. Lockshin (Eds)

Publisher: Wiley-Liss, Inc., New York

Price: £70.00

ISBN: 0-471-12123-1

This book is volume 16 of an excellent series of research monographs on cell biology. It has been compiled by editors who are well regarded in the fields of research covered and it has been written with the aim of bridging the rapidly growing areas of cellular ageing and apoptosis (programmed cell death). The publication of this monograph is well timed since research into ageing is attracting increasing attention, both scientifically and politically. Despite such attention, the editors remind us in their preface that remarkably little is known about the biological mechanisms involved in ageing. This book is, not unreasonably, founded on the basis that an understanding of the ageing of cells will feed into our understanding of the structural, physiological and biochemical compromises that take place in the aged person. The 48 contributors to the book are all established authorities, although it might be thought that, since all but five of them come from North America, the work shows a geographical bias.

The book has been organized into three sections. The first section deals with the basic mechanisms of ageing, the second is concerned with the molecular mechanisms controlling cellular ageing and the third deals with apoptosis. With very few exceptions, the contributors have provided advanced, up-to-date reviews and have highlighted the future direction of research. Although specific systems and tissues of the body (e.g. the cardiovascular system and neurones) are touched upon, in the main the contributors have kept within the remit of exploring in general terms the primary cellular basis for ageing. For the orthodontist and oral biologist, therefore, there is little in the book of direct concern but much insight should be gained concerning the present state of ageing research. There is undoubtedly a great need for research into ageing in dental disciplines and it is to be hoped that books of this kind will provide a stimulus for appropriate projects.

B. J. Moxham

Solo Version 6.0 for Windows

BMDP Statistical Software, Cork Technology Park, Model Farm Road, Cork, Ireland

This program requires Windows 3.1 and uses approximately 10 Mb of disk space. It is easy to install through Program Manager and there is a useful tutorial to acquaint the operator with the fundamentals of the package. The manual is comprehensive and logically set out, with most of the information available via the on-line help.

In operation the program essentially uses three main windows. The spreadsheet includes enter-

ing and importing data; the procedure template performs one or more analyses of the data; and the output allows one to view, edit, save and print the results. In addition, the program can export data to a variety of existing spreadsheets, databases and statistical systems.

Within the data analysis menu there are procedures for ANOVA, descriptive statistics, multivariate analysis, regression and correlation,

quality control, survival analysis and *t*-tests. Curve fitting and experimental design are inactive and are promised with future updates.

The graphics output uses standard plots, box, dot, grid, percentile, probability, scatter, violin and histograms.

In use, I found this program required a considerable amount of time for familiarization to a level which allowed more extensive analysis and presentation of data. Although the various

windows provide a logical sequence in which to operate the program, switching between them is time-consuming and somewhat confusing to the uninitiated. The graphics output is limited when compared with that available on some other statistical programs.

However, at £595 this package does offer extensive and adequate statistical and graphical presentation of data at a reasonable price.

David Wyness