

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of *HLA Techniques for Blood Bankers*

REFERENCE: Mallory, D., Hackett, E., and Fawcett, K., *HLA Techniques for Blood Bankers*, American Association of Blood Banks, 1117 N. 19th St., Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22209, \$30.00, 186 pp.

This small book is intended to supplement an earlier (1982) book from the same publisher on *Theoretical Aspects of HLA*. Originally, both books were manuals to be given out to participants in workshops held by the American Association of Blood Banks, and were intended to present the ins and outs of HLA to blood bankers who were not already experts in the field.

The book is the product of multiple authorship with three overall editors who are experts in the field, one technical, one scientific, and one medical. An initial historical introduction by Zmijewski is authoritative and presents an interesting story of the development of the field, with particular reference to international collaboration. The chapters on technical aspects are well detailed and practical, although with some overlapping of content. The section on cytotoxicity cross-matching is rather sketchy and does not adequately cover alternative systems. MLC procedures and HLA DR typing are very clearly outlined by Moore, as is serum analysis by Walker. The volume concludes with an interesting series of problems, presented with their solutions.

A book of this sort tends to be uneven in quality unless it is carefully and expertly edited. This is no exception. There is substantial overlap between sections. A separate chapter on the topic of HLA and paternity testing would have been an advantage. The literary quality of the chapters ranges from excellent to marginal. Latin plurals are frequently used with singular verbs, so that one does not know whether "media" and "sera" are intended to mean one or several.

This book would be a useful supplement to medical technology training programs, or to professionals learning about histocompatibility. It suffers by comparison with the more cohesive presentation of Miller and Rodey (*HLA Without Tears, 1981*). For a book of this type, its price is too high.

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