
Book Reviews

Colis, J.E.; Graesmann, A.; Loyter, A. (eds.): **Transfer of Cell Constituents into Eukaryotic Cells** NATO Advanced Study Institutes Series; Series A: Life Sciences No. 31. New York, London; Plenum Press 1980. 443 pp., 76 figs., 22 tabs. Hard bound \$ 45--.

This book represents a record of the lectures presented at a NATO Advanced Study on Transfer of Cell Constituents into Eukaryotic Cells held in Portugal in 1979. The organisers chose well and widely to span the subject matter, including experts on microinjection with micropipettes, PEG-erythrocyte ghost-mediated microinjection, and critical summaries on the microinjection of cellular m-RNA and viral RNA, and of Simian Virus 40 DNA fragments, all attesting to the value of the method.

The use of liposomes as carriers for macromolecules (RNA and DNA) and drugs receives close attention. Gregoriadis draws attention to the fact that the utilization of liposomes as drug carriers grew out of the investigations of liposomes as membrane models, and concludes that until there is considerable progress in achieving drug specificity, liposomes are likely to play important roles in optimizing drug action. The fusion of cell fragments and cell hybrids is presented while considerable effort is made to cover B cell and Epstein-Barr virus associated functions as well as tumorigenicity in mouse cell hybrids.

DNA and chromosome mediated gene transfer is considered for both plant and animal cells. The point is made that the advent of DNA mediated transformation provides a means of performing high resolution gene mapping in higher eukaryotes in addition to specific genetic modification. The techniques of injection of m-RNA and DNA into *Xenopus laevis* oocytes is described in considerable detail and serves to underline the importance of the oocyte system for further research in molecular biology.

At first glance the book seems to consist of a collection of only distantly related chapters. However, this merely reflects the diversity of current research in this area and the large number of

techniques that have been developed to bring about transfer of cell constituents in living cells. A very useful book then, to keep the scientist in touch with this exciting and expanding field of cell biology.

J.F. Jackson, Glen Osmond

Milunsky, A.; Annas, G.J. (eds.): **Genetics and the Law II**. New York, London: Plenum Press 1980. 480 pp., 1 fig., 18 tabs. Hard bound \$ 29.50.

The proceedings of the second national conference on genetics and the law, which was held in Boston in May, 1979, are presented in 'Genetics and the law II'. The editors have attempted to avoid repetitions from the first conference, which was held in 1975, and have concentrated on legal and scientific developments of the past five years. Among the crucial topics covered are: government control and regulation of science; genetic counseling, genetic screening and the law; law and the prenatal diagnosis of genetic disorders; disclosure and consent; legal aspects of artificial insemination; the rights of the mentally handicapped; law and ethics in in vitro fertilization; law, abortion, and fetal rights; genetic disease and the rights of adopted persons; law and the regulation of mutagens and teratogens; sex selection; law and the nontreatment of the defective or incompetent person; ethics, eugenics, law, and society. Each topic is discussed intensively. All interpretations, opinions and comments made by participants are presented in this volume.

Ethical, moral and legal considerations of current genetic problems, including eugenics, are dealt with in depth. This wide-ranging text, which includes a large bibliography, is of immediate relevance to all geneticists, physicians of all specialties, lawyers, ethicists and social scientists, and to anyone concerned with the effects of modern genetics on the family and society.

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