
Book reviews

Bridges, B. A.; Butterworth, B. E.; Weinstein, I. B. (eds.): Indicators of Genotoxic Exposure, Banbury Report 13. Cold Spring Harbor: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory 1982. 580 pp., several figs. Hard bound \$ 75.00.

The thirteenth Banbury report is dedicated to the Conference on Indicators of Genotoxic Exposure, held from April 18–21, 1982 at Cold Spring Harbor. The report comprises the lectures and discussions held at this Conference that was dedicated to assess the scientific capabilities to the direct monitoring of the individual for the effects of genotoxic exposure.

The lectures given by the participants were concentrated around 7 major themes: clinical perspectives (2 lectures), detection of mutagens in body fluids (4 lectures), DNA damage and repair (8 lectures), DNA adducts (7 lectures), cytogenetics and sister chromatid exchange (8 lectures), mutagenesis (8 lectures), and germ cell effects (5 lectures).

Two-thirds of the lectures were in the field of DNA and cytogenetics research and present a number of relatively recent developed techniques and assay methods carried out with animal and human tissues.

Part of the lectures are dedicated to the epidemiological dangers that threaten workers in industrial areas where genotoxic substances occur. Most of the at human beings concerned research is a combination of tissue – experiments with comparing sociological research between an exposed and a non-exposed workers or social group for example in smoke and food components research.

The report comprises a large number of interesting methods and results for scientists working in the field of DNA and cancer research, medical epidemiology and laboratory testing.

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Jaenicke, L. (ed.): Biochemistry of Differentiation and Morphogenesis. Berlin Heidelberg New York: Springer 1982. XI + 301 pp., 158 figs. Hard bound DM 88,-/\$ 35.20.

The biochemistry of differentiation and morphogenesis was the topic of the 33rd Mosbach Colloquium organized by the Gesellschaft für Biologische Chemie in W. Germany. Twenty-seven lectures presented by experts in the field are compiled in the book and arranged in five sections: gene expression, transfer of genes, cell differentiation, cell recognition, and morphogenesis. As the title already indicates, the scope of the colloquium and thus of the book is very broad and covers almost everything in modern developmental biology. Therefore, the problem of how to merge the reports of 27 case studies into one book is particularly serious in this case. A reviewer rather than going into much detail should try to draw some general conclusions from the wealth of information provided on the widely diverging "systems". One of them is that molecular biology has deeply penetrated especially in the study of genome organization and of regulation of gene action. Any molecular biologist who wants to know in what way his techniques are being used in what once was classical biology will find ample information in almost every section of the book. Another conclusion is that progress in the field of differentiation largely depends on the ability of the investigator to define the differentiated state in molecular terms. This is why progress in the study of morphogenesis is so slow in comparison to that of biochemical differentiation.

The book provides the reader with a good insight in the present state of the art. It is, therefore, a serious disadvantage that a general introduction on the common traits in the diversity of the reported research is missing. It would have made the fast growing knowledge in this fascinating field more accessible to a wider circle of scientists.

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