

disease. The next part considers the infectious origin of Paget's disease, the paramyxoviruses and their possible role in the survenue of the PD, their persistence and diseases in humans compared with the canine distemper virus in dogs. Another aspect concerns the role of the cytokines and growth factors in Paget's disease regulating the bone resorption, the osteoclastogenesis, its proliferation, differentiation and activation in mature state, all this compared with normal bone formation, the role of the osteoblasts during formation and maturity, the production and role of the cytokines and growth factors in bone, the abnormal bone remodeling ending with a molecular model of Paget's disease, considered as a multifactorial disease. The next chapter is that of the molecular aspects of Paget's disease, with considerations on the mechanisms of action of bisphosphonates as inhibitor of bone resorption, of their antimineralization and antiresorptive properties and direct effects on osteoclasts, provoking an inhibition of osteoclast development as well as their action on other bone cells, presenting models for identifying their molecular mechanisms of action. The last part compares the familial expansile osteolysis as a genetic model of Paget's disease, with its genetics of FEO and the candidate genes. In one word an interesting model of human and experimental pathology but whose real aspects are still open to discussions and... research.

GENETIC INSTABILITY AND TUMORIGENESIS. M.B. Kasten (ed.), Springer Verlag, Heidelberg, 1997, 285 p., Price: 198 DM

What means genetic instability? Is it the key to understand the tumorigenesis? That is at least the challenge of the seven chapters presented in this booklet, which is introduced by a general overview on the problem, which is not considered as a question without answer. One of the chapters considers the antithesis genome stability and instability, which is presented as a working paradigm, balancing the weight of the stability against the weight of instability. A curious other chapter goes out from the budding of the yeast as a system of surveillance and genome stability to demonstrate its implications for mammalian carcinogenesis. A following chapter deals with the genome instability and its role in neoplasia, whereas is studied the role of DNA excision repair gene defects in relation with carcinogenesis is deducted from chromosome instability syndromes. Finally a last chapter considers the genetic alterations in human tumors. Practically all these theories and investigations are based on one single statement, or according others, presumption: cancer is a disease resulting from the alteration of cellular genes which cause phenotypic changes in somatic cells. But that lets the door open to many speculations, the theories on cancer having been so numerous since the days of Oberling who was the first to invoke the theory of the infection by viruses, followed by that on metabolic disorders and ending with genetic causes after immunologic causes. The problem is to find out if the cancer results from one single cause or if it is the result of multiple, intricate causes. Is it possible to apply the

concepts of the bacteriology, where it is clearly demonstrated that each infection has its specific causes? In other words, are the cancers of one and unique origin or do exist as many cancers as exist specific causes? Until to-day it has not been proved with an absolute certainty that cancer is hereditary. May be! But it is probably not a "genetic disease", consequently not transmitted by the germ lines, but developed in somatic cell lines. And practically all the papers presented in this booklet are oriented towards the solution of that enigma. Using this concept, I think that the authors have tried to escape from the traditional routine and from the customary conformism, without knowing if their theories fit with the reality. A difficult problem, but a nice theory.

SCIENTIFIC UNIT CONVERSION. F. Cardarelli (ed.), Springer Verlag, Heidelberg, 1997, 456 p., Price: 49,50 DM

This is really an extraordinary book, translated from french and which, under a reduced volume and thanks to an excellent, judiciously condensed method of presentation, permits the conversion in metric units of any type of measure, it may come from where it wants and from any period of time, including as well egyptian, persian, old chinese, hebrew, greek, arabic or roman values, as all european and japanese one's. It is evident that the author has not made such a compilation for his unique pleasure, but because he found it absolutely necessary to clear up, once and for all, the need to bring, under one roof, all the informations dispersed in collections of different books. I think that there would have been very few to accomplish such a titanesque task. And we must, all, be thankful to François Gardarelli to have realized it so clearly and so elegantly! He has accomplished this task after that the british and the american scientists have definitively, after very long decennies, we can say, after too long decennies, refused, to accept and to apply the metric system. This book is consequently useful not only for life scientists, but also for all types of technologists, engineers, lawyers, teachers, statisticians and so on. The book is subdivided in five chapters containing a brief history of the metric system and a complete description of the SIU, that is the *Système International d'Unités* and its organization. Another chapter describes some still non-metric used systems but all systems from the most ancient times until to-day. Chapter 4 is the core of this book, presenting an exhaustive set of conversion tables with units, of over 2000, classified in an alphabetical order, each one fully described. Chapter 5 concerns the area of application of the units under the form of groups, where they are easily identified, containing 35 conversion tables, ranging from mass to nuclear quantities. The sixth chapter allows very precise calculations of conversions, thanks to physical and mathematical constants tables. Many other informations are provided, so detailed bibliography, a french-english glossary, the addresses of international organizations in the area of standardization, rules of nomenclature and answers to many questions, like what signifies pcu, the dimensions of the röntgen, what was the Imperial system and his old units, the different units of pressure and stress, and many more. As a practical example can be calculated the

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J. Cellular and Molecular Biology
43(5)807-808
(1997)

01493241S



conversion of mmHg in its true value in millipascals, the old system of measurement in mmHg remaining in use until to day in medicine, the medicine-men prizing bravely the mmHg like the apple of one's eyes, refusing stubbornly to use the millipascals, whereas the mmHg and practically the adding of mmHg one over the other, going in meters of Hg have practically no sense to determine the seriousness of hypertension! It was the same with the difficulty to let accept the terms NAD and NADP at the place of DPN and TPN, or cryotome instead the stupid term of cryostat! There are still persons calculating in ancient francs; whereas the new francs have been introduced since long years. So can we ask ourselves what will happen with the "euro" in a previsible time? Anyhow this book is a magnificent "working tool" like is it a "portable computer", what let's hope that the entire book may be presented, at least we hope so, in a short time, under a form of CD-ROM. All what we can say: felicitations François Gardarelli and good luck!

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH. How to plan, publish and present it. W.F. Whimster with contributions from G. Horrocks and D.A. Heath. Springer Verlag, Heidelberg, 1997, 246 p., Price: 29,80 DM

This is a valuable booklet which presents all the items needed to present correctly a paper, either for a journal or for a book. The author seems to have a good knowledge in matter of publication and edition and presents clearly the method to write a contribution which satisfies most of the editors, even if not all. He shows how a planning has to be made according the type of journal, how to search the literature and the biomedical data bases, using as well the Internet and applying ethical principles, not to forget the searching of research grants. An important point is that of the handling of the data and their interpretation, to which are added visual representations. Another problem is that of the correct writing and rewriting, and particularly by those whose first language is not English. The respect of the journal's note to author is fundamental and particularly the peer review, the dealing with acceptance and rejection, which depend on the type of journal. Interesting is also the manner to present papers at meetings, the composition of the abstracts, whose presentation is different according the meetings, the papers themselves and the posters. The introduction is made by Heath, presenting a historical overview which is very pleasant. There are presented by the author counsels for further readings, the presentation of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, the uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals, the statement of policy, the BMJ advices to authors and guidelines for referees and technical editors, the declaration of Helsinki, the applications for ethical approval and research grants, a selection of typefaces and sizes, American and British usage in spelling, how to avoid verbosity, the distraction removal test kit and finally, proof-

reading and proofreaders marks. All that is of an excellent nature and should be known by the authors...and by some editors who have to respect ethical rules. We have to add to all these excellent presentations some remarks taken from my own experience, after having participated during years to different nomenclature committees. We recommend and require, since 41 years, to write in small letters the abbreviated adjectives, using specific abbreviations like "ntn." for national and "nat." for natural, ending all words of "-ology", with "ol", so *Physiol.*, *Bacteriol.*, *Parasitol.*, *Epidemiol.* and so on. We agree completely that the abbreviated journal should be written at the end, followed by the year, the volume and the first and last pages of the paper. But we recommend another, easier and more logic mode of punctuation, not like that one recommended in this book, which seems to be not the best. As an example, page 182, point 8 is written here: *J Am Acad Dermatol* 1989;20(2pf 1):257-60, what we consider as incorrect, whereas the correct writing is *J. am. Acad. Dermatol.* 1989, 20: 257-260. At no any moment the month and issue number is needed, complicating the referenciation. The author has also forgotten to mention the famous M.I.R. or Modernity Index of (Research) References, which I have created and which is a true mathematical and fully objective system of evaluation of the paper, permitting to determine if the paper is really modern or not, this index requiring that the references should reach a percentage of at least 70%, what means that, considering all references, 70% of all references should be not older than 10 years for general topics and not older than 5 years for topics like cancer, AIDS, PCR... We consider this point as a major factor to accept or to reject an original paper, whereas, for a review, a lower index is permitted, but never below 50%. It is also true that it is often difficult to find the correct abbreviation, and that has to be solved by the Editor-in-Chief. Finally the author should learn how to use the best manner to make Peer Reviewing. The chapter on this topic is not satisfactory and should be entirely rewritten. For our journal, for that purpose, I have created another mathematical system which avoids any subjectivity. It would be too long to expose it here and I will in one of our next issues explain it in details. The author of this book is conveyed to read it, since my experience is extended over 41 years as the Editor-in-Chief and the elaboration of this "objective" Peer Reviewing has taken many years. Finally I have written in issue N°3, volume 43, 1997 (pp. 269-284) of our journal, the "Cellular and Molecular Biology" a paper on "Ethics in matter of Edition". I convey as well the author of this book to read it and to learn all - or nearby all - what may happen to an Editor-in-Chief in the exercise of his activity. I regret that professor Whimster did not make any allusion about such problems, because it is important that the authors know how often they hit frontally the Ethic Rules, damaging so their own image. Why not to show also the dark side in the planning and publishing papers and journals? As a conclusion, we recommend this book to all authors and editors. They have always to learn and to improve their knowledges.

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