Journal of

MEDICAL GENETICS

Notice to Contributors

Papers, which should be in triplicate and in the Vancouver style (*Br Med J* 1982;**284**:1766–70), should be sent to the Editor, *Journal of Medical Genetics*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Papers from the USA can be submitted to the North American Editor, Dr P M Conneally, Department of Medical Genetics, James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children RR129, Indiana University Medical Center, Indianapolis, Indiana 46223, USA. Submission of a paper will be held to imply that it contains original work which has not been previously published. The signature of each author is required on the covering letter. Permission to republish must be obtained from the Editor.

Papers should conform to one of the following categories.
Original contributions on clinical or laboratory aspects of medical genetics in man and on related animal studies.
Case reports or family reports with particularly instructive clinical or genetic features: to be no longer than 1000 words, with no more than three figures, one table, and eight references.
Short reports: to be no longer than 500 words with a clinical photograph and partial karyotype, if appropriate, and no more than three references.
Review articles will generally be by invitation, but suggestions from authors wishing to prepare a review article will be welcomed.
Short communications and *Technical notes* will also be considered.
Letters to the Editor in relation to papers and to other relevant topics will be welcomed.

Publication of papers thought to be of special importance may be expedited.

SI units should be used. All contributions should be accompanied by an abstract or structured abstract giving the main results and conclusions. Typescripts should be double spaced with wide margins. One page proof will be sent to the author submitting the paper and alterations on the proof, apart from printer's errors, are not permitted. Reprints may be ordered when the proof is returned.

Figures should be kept to a minimum and should be numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals. Legends should be typed on a separate sheet. Photographs should be on glossy paper and diagrams should be drawn on stout white paper. Photographs of karyotypes do not reproduce well. Chromosomes should be cut out and stuck onto stout paper. Any lettering should be indicated on a separate transparent overlay.

Tables should not be included in the body of the text, but should be typed on separate pages and numbered with Arabic numerals. A legend should be provided.

References should conform precisely to the style current in this Journal. Authors are responsible for the *accuracy* and *completeness* of their references as these will not be checked by the Editorial Office.

Some notes on nomenclature can be found in *J Med Genet* 1991;**28**:72.

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in chapters concerning the detection of radiation damage, the detection of chromosome abnormalities, gene mapping, and cloning of DNA sequences. These last two chapters will be of particular interest to molecular biologists.

Two further chapters on scanning flow cytometry and on the measurement of specific DNA and RNA sequences describe the latest technology and methodology and point to future applications. With any scientific publications of this type it is impossible for the editor to keep contributions completely up to date with the latest developments. Recent applications of the polymerase chain reaction to small numbers of flow sorted chromosomes are not covered in this book.

This book should be of interest to two groups of people. Firstly, molecular biologists and cytogeneticists will find that the chapters detailing the applications of chromosome analysis and the uses of sorted material will point to how this technology could help their own work. Secondly, those running cell sorters who are asked to analyse and sort chromosomes will find the technical information in this book invaluable.

N P CARTER

The Threat and the Glory. Reflections on Science and Scientists. P Medawar. (Pp 291; £15·00.) Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1990.

A Very Decided Preference. Life with Peter Medawar. Jean Medawar. (Pp 256; £15·00.) Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1990.

Peter Medawar was, without question, one of the most distinguished scientists of our century. His studies of graft rejection, in collaboration with his colleagues Billingham and Brent, led to the discovery of immunological tolerance and the foundation of the science of immunology, with profound effects on transplantation surgery. He was a man of immense achievement and his whole career was a reflection of this, starting with a First in Zoology at Oxford, a Chair at 32, Fellowship of the Royal Society at 34, the Nobel Prize at 45, a Knighthood at 50, and later the Order of Merit. But as David Pyke points out in the Introduction to this compilation of his essays, Medawar was not only a great scientist but a great writer. He had the rare facility of being able to make complex issues clear, even for those not versed in science. But this was never at the expense of accuracy. These essays include BBC interviews, book reviews, and his Reith lectures of 1959 on 'The Future of Man'. They are rich in philosophy (one of Medawar's special interests) and are always thought provoking and often touched with wit. Thus in giving advice to a would-be hospital patient, he recommends reading good books but ". . . if you didn't understand Chomsky when you were well there is nothing about illness that can give you an insight into the working of his mind", and later to tell Ward Sister ". . . you get a funny sort of dizzy, swimming feeling in the head if you don't have a drink at 6 o'clock", provided you don't have a serious liver problem. In the foreword, Lewis Thomas points out that Medawar possessed more friends all around the world than anyone he ever knew or heard of. Having read these essays and his wife's biography I am not at all surprised.

Her biography fills in those personal gaps which can so illuminate a distinguished man's life. In this case his later years were dogged by serious crippling illness, yet when questioned about his courage and continued pleasure in life he would retort "I have a very decided preference for remaining alive". He had a major stroke at the age of 54 which left him with a left hemiplegia from which he never fully recovered. Then after 11 years of gradually coming to terms with his disabilities, he had another stroke followed over the years by several others and also the loss of an eye through glaucoma. Eventually he had only one functioning hand and less than half his eyesight. The final event occurred in October 1987.

Throughout the 50 years of their marriage, Medawar and his wife developed a close relationship which many would envy. She was certainly fortunate in having such a scholarly and delightful husband with whom to share her family and life. But I suspect he may have been the more fortunate, in having such a courageous, caring, and loving wife, without whom I suspect he would never have achieved quite so much. "Behind every successful man . . .".

ALAN EMERY

NOTICES

Rapallo II. An International Symposium on First Trimester Prenatal Diagnosis

This symposium will be held at Teatro delle Clarisse, Rapallo, Italy on 24 to 26 October 1991. The symposium will attempt to evaluate the techniques and procedures of embryonic and fetal diagnosis, with major emphasis on the difficulties and controversial aspects of a host of procedures spanning from single cell diagnosis to early amniocentesis. The symposium will be based on invited papers with ample time for directed and free discussion from the floor. The number of participants will be limited to 250. There will be no posters but participants may submit in advance a two page summary of any contribution they wish to make which will be duplicated and distributed at the meeting. For further details contact Professor M Fraccaro, CP 217, I–27100 Pavia, Italy.

Call for Abstracts. NATO Advanced Research Workshop on Prader-Willi Syndrome and Other 15q Deletion Disorders

This conference will be held on 2 to 3 May 1991 at Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands. Abstract due date: 7 January 1991. For further details please contact: Hoboken Congress Organization, Erazmus University Rotterdam, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Fax No 31–10–4367271.

International Conference on Prader-Willi Syndrome for Professionals and Parents (in English)

This conference will be held on 4 to 5 May 1991 at Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands. For information contact: Hoboken Congress Organization, Erazmus University Rotterdam, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Fax No 31–10–4367271.

4th International School of Medical Genetics

The fourth course of the International School of Medical Genetics will be held on 21 to 27 April 1991 in Trieste, Italy. For further details contact Professor G Romeo, Lab Genetica Molecolare, Istituto G Gaslini, 16148 Genova, Italy. Tel: 39-10-5636400. Fax 391254.

Grants for research in epidermolysis bullosa

Applications for grants are invited from research workers interested in the study of epidermolysis bullosa. This is a disease with many forms of expression, often crippling and sometimes lethal. The condition involves blistering of both skin and internal mucosal surfaces. A deficiency of type VII collagen has been reported in some cases and lack of a specific proteoglycan in others. Interested persons should contact the Director, DEBRA, 1 Kings Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG11 7BG (tel 0344 771961) from whom a list of publications on the subject may be obtained together with a grant application form. The grant applications will be assessed by a specialist medical and scientific panel and will be competitive.

Some notes for contributors on nomenclature

Nomenclature. Authors should refer to the following publications.

(1) Chromosomes: ISCN. An international system for human cytogenetic nomenclature. *Cytogenet Cell Genet* 1978;**21**:309–404.

(2) Genes: Shows TB, *et al.* In: Human Gene Mapping 5 and 7. *Cytogenet Cell Genet* 1979;**25**:96–116, 1984;**37**:340–3.

(3) Loci: Conventional nomenclature should be used, with lower case lettering as appropriate (for example, Race RR, Sanger R. *Blood groups in man.* 6th ed. Oxford, London: Blackwell, 1975; and Giblett ER. *Genetic markers in human blood.* Oxford, London: Blackwell, 1969).

(4) Blood coagulation: International Committee of Haemostasis and Thrombosis (Graham JB, *et al.*). A genetic nomenclature for human blood coagulation. *Thromb Haemostas* 1973;**30**:2–11.

(5) Enzymes: *Enzyme nomenclature: recommendations of the nomenclature committee of the International Union of Biochemistry.* New York: Academic Press, 1984.