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Trends in organ transplantation

New York: Springer Publishing Company
1996. (ISBN 0-8261-9150-9) U.S. \$ 49.95.

This book contains an impressive list of contributors, all from the United States. The foreword introduces the concept of "Managed care" – words that are rapidly being introduced into Europe as health care has to be more efficient and cost effective. The importance of multidisciplinary team work is paramount throughout the book. The legal and financial aspects described all relate to the United States. However, the chapter describing cost containment initiatives leading to early discharge could be useful in any country. There are excellent descriptions of home care teams that describe "how the future of home health care has no boundaries".

The book goes on to outline the working methodology and side effects of immunosuppressive drugs which are well docu-

mented. The author presents a long and overwhelming list. The chapter entitled "Long-term recovery issues following transplantation" reads more like a literature review than a chapter, although the author does put forward interesting ideas for future nursing research regarding quality of life studies for transplant patients.

Chapter 5 describes "Chimerism", defined as tolerance or graft acceptance in transplant recipients. To understand this dynamic concept, four steps need to be addressed: definition, recognition, enhancement, and education. The author refers to chapter 6, on xenobiotic immunosuppressants, as the chapter that will be obsolete quicker than any other one. It introduces the reader to new drugs that are now in clinical trials. Diagrams are included to help explain the composition and action of these drugs.

The next part of the book concentrates on "Women's issues in transplantation". A study regarding breastfeeding and cyclosporin A shows that immunosuppressed female transplant recipients may still be able to provide their infants with much needed immunological factors; however, interesting case histories from Toronto conclude with the advice not to breastfeed.

There is an excellent chapter on xenotransplantation that reviews progress so far from a global viewpoint. It reminds the reader of "Baby Fae's legacy and her short life, which was full of promises for what was possible". The chapter goes on to describe how David White and his colleagues at Cambridge have developed a pig strain that expresses human complement inhibitors.

The later chapters in the book describe some of the new transplant techniques, such as living related lobar lung transplants, combined pancreas, liver, and kidney transplantation, and pediatric intestinal transplantation: the short gut solution. Alternatives to cardiac retransplantation include a relatively new procedure – directional coronary arterectomy – autologous bone marrow transplantation for breast cancer is also described, which offers some hope for treating aggressive cancers.

We would certainly recommend this book. However, one should bear in mind that it focuses largely on what is presently being done in the United States.

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1st International Congress on Immunointervention in Nephrology 30 April–2 May 1998, Cagliari (Sardinia) Italy

This meeting, organized by the Departments of Nephrology of Ospedale S. Michele (Cagliari) and Ospedale Maggiore IRCCS (Milan), will be held in the Grand Hotel "Domus de Maria", Chia Laguna, Sardinia. From 30 April until 1 May, attention will be focused on new therapeutic strategies in kidney transplantation. On 2 May, clinical and therapeutic aspects of lupus nephritis will be discussed. The program will include lectures from invited international speakers, round tables, poster presentations, and free communications. Registration is US\$ 250.–. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 15 January 1998.

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