It has been a matter of debate whether gastriac acid hypersecretion observed in patients with DU is a result of *H pylori* infection or if the infection accelerates development of DU in subjects who originally had acid hypersecretion. Our data showing that acid secretion was reduced in association with the decrease in serum gastrin levels in some DU patients and that MAO levels in patients with DU after eradication are still higher than those of normal subjects without *H pylori* infection may support the latter idea. Moreover, this idea may explain the fact that there are more patients with GU than DU among Japanese subjects, who exhibit lower acid secretion than Western patients.

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2 Parente F, Macoin G, Sangalotti O, et al. Behaviour of acid secretion, gastrin release, serum pepsinogen, and gastric emptying of liquids over six months from eradication of Helico-

5 Gibert JP, Boixeda D, Vila T, et al. Basal and stimulated gastrin levels and gastric acid output five months after therapy for Helico-
7 Kuipers EJ, Uytterlinde AM, Per A, et al. Increase of Helicobacter pylori-associated corpus gastritis during acid suppression therapy; implications for long term safety. *Am J Gastro-
8 Yasunaga Y, Shinomura Y, Kanayama S, et al. Impaired growth and increased acid secre-
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**BOOK REVIEWS**

Colun Microbiota, Nutrition and Health. Edited by G R Gibson, M B Roberfroid (Pp 304; illustrated; £93.00).

The proceedings of medical and scientific meetings, when published, tend to be viewed more as trophies for the participants rather than referenced texts to be consulted at a later date. In this information age, such publications are seldom a first choice for those seeking specific information on selected topics and, as such, the readiness market is likely quite small. The present text is therefore a surprise because it offers an excellent overview of recent advances in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), and blends insights into pathogenetic mechanisms with new therapeutic approaches. As with most Falk symposia, the selection of authors is truly international and each is a leader in the field. Several of the chapters provide more than a review, and are actually quite useful in translating research information into clinical implications of practical value. This is particularly the case in chapters dealing with genetics, cytokines, stem cell therapy, and cancer in IBD. The standard of writing is not uniform and, although six editors are listed, I doubt if any had significant editorial input to the chapters. The quality of the book relies therefore on the expertise of the authors which is impressive. What is remarkable is that such a large amount of information can be presented in a concise fashion in such a slim volume and in such a readable manner. I rarely recommend books of this nature for general readership but anyone seeking a concise pain free update and overview of the field would not go far wrong with this text.

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**Letters, Book reviews, Correction, Notes, Retraction**