and 7 of this journal under one cover and under three general headings of leukaemia, biology and lymphoma. Their reviews cover a broad spectrum of aspects of these diseases in considerable detail.

On the whole, the individual reviews are authoritative and clearly written and the list of contributors is impressive. A criticism of the way in which the book is structured is the fact that it has been done by disease rather than by the precise subject matter of the reviews. For example, there are several excellent review articles on various aspects of cell cycle kinetics and cytogenetics and their relationship to outcome in leukaemia and lymphoma. These various reviews could have been more sensibly grouped together. The chapter by Bokhari *et al.* on cell cycle parameters as predictors of prognosis in AML demonstrates the correlation of cell cycle kinetics with outcome, and similar subjects are covered in the chapter by Tusenius *et al.* in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and also in the chapter on proliferating cell nuclear antigen (PCNA) by Keim and Hanash. This last chapter provides an excellent prescription of PCNA backed up by a description of its putative function as a stabiliser of DNA polymerase. The changes in the nuclear distribution of PCNA in the cell cycle are also clearly described and interesting data are presented on the relationship between PCNA expression and clinical parameters such as the incidence of relapse in patients with ANLLI.

Tusenius *et al.* review the role of various proliferation indices, including assessment of mitotic index, transferrin receptor, the Ki-67 antigen and nucleolar organiser regions. The chapter describes well the potential limitations of this kind of approach, although unfortunately appears too early to include recent data from the South-West Oncology Group prospective study indicating the independent prognostic value of Ki-67 expression in aggressive lymphoma.

The various chapters on cytogenetic abnormalities and on their molecular counterparts are also individually clear but could have been more sensibly grouped into one section of the book. The volume also includes a number of clinical papers of interest.

Ljungman *et al.* provide an overview of the role of bone marrow transplantation in acute non-lymphoblastic leukaemia.

The article is clearly written and well balanced, emphasising the need for prospective clinical studies to assess its true value and emphasising the importance of all unrelated donor transplants being registered.

Johnson and Rohatiner's chapter on the role of high-dose therapy in follicular lymphoma gives a good overview of current experience, although it fails to emphasise that comparisons between various transplant and non-transplant series in this disease are extremely difficult because of inconsistencies in histological interpretation of the subtypes of follicular lymphoma. Furthermore, the chapter fails to emphasise the need for prospective randomised studies in this disease.

Other chapters include descriptions of rare clinical entities including splenic lymphoma with villous lymphocytes, mastocytosis and coexistent non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and myeloproliferative disorders, sinus histiocytosis and post-transplant lymphoma. Again, all of these provide excellent reviews by recognised experts.

Overall, this volume provides an interesting collection of review articles on a somewhat diverse subject matter in the field of leukaemia and lymphoma. Since the articles are derived from reviews in a journal they inevitably reflect issues regarded as important at the time of writing and therefore do not easily fall into neat groupings for a book. Because of this it is difficult to determine exactly who is likely to be interested in having this kind of volume other than those people who are likely to read the journal in any case. Nevertheless, the quality of the authorship and of the articles is on the whole excellent, and for this reason alone it should be recommended.

J.W. Sweetenham

Filgrastim (r-metHuG-CSF) in Clinical Practice. Basic and Clinical Oncology Series/5

Edited by G. Morstyn & T.M. Dexter, New York: Marcel Dekker Inc., 1993, 368 pp. \$125.00.

Filgrastim in Clinical Practice is the fifth volume in the Basic and Clinical Oncology series edited by Bruce Cheson. Granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF) was the first human haemopoietic growth factor to be introduced into clinical practice; 'Filgrastim' is its generic name. Short chapters on the biology, biochemistry and pharmacology are included. Other chapters cover the role of G-CSF in treating patients with chronic neutropenia and in ameliorating neutropenia with reduction in the incidence of infection following intensive chemotherapy. The use of G-CSF in mobilising peripheral blood progenitor cells for haemopoietic rescue following myeloablative chemotherapy is the subject of a further chapter, and the final pages cover economic, social and practical aspects of administration.

The chapters are relatively short and do not provide an extensive review of the literature, and inevitably in a book of this nature the assessment of published work is 2–3 years out of date. However, the book does provide the clinician with important basic information on the use of G-CSF in the clinic. Although one of the editors and several of the authors are Amgen Inc. staff, the book does provide a reasonably balanced view of the clinical role of G-CSF. However, any economic advantage is eroding and its exact role in clinical practice is changing with time. This book does provide the clinician with a useful introduction to the clinical uses of G-CSF, but in view of the expense of the agent the reader should be advised that specific indications for its use require continuing reassessment in the light of new research defining the role of intensive chemotherapy, growth factors and haemopoietic stem cell rescue.

D. Crowther

Diagnosis of Colorectal and Ovarian Carcinoma: Application of Immunosciintigraphic Technology

Edited by R.T. Maguire & D. Van Nostrand, New York: Marcel Dekker, 1992, 260 pp.

This book is one of a series on targeted diagnosis and therapy which focuses on individual products or strategy for targeted therapy. The generation and characterisation of the monoclonal antibody B72.3 as well as the extensive pre-clinical and clinical data are reviewed in some detail. This is one of the most widely studied anti-tumour monoclonal antibodies and binds a high molecular weight mucin-like glycoprotein frequently expressed by common epithelium-derived malignancies such as those of the colon, ovary, lung and breast. It was generated in 1981 by conventional hybridoma technology utilising the membrane fraction of cells derived from breast cancer metastases as the immunogen. Since then a vast number of preclinical and clinical data have been generated and the antibody has been modified by using the techniques of antibody engineering.

The initial chapter is an excellent historical review of radioimmunoimaging with good sections on the relative merits of different labelling agents and some discussion of the future prospects for this technology. The chapter on the initial generation, characterisation and preclinical testing is authoritative and indicates the typical development of antibodies from isolation to clinical application. The major portion of the book concentrates on the use of B72.3 in colorectal cancer imaging, and these chapters are likewise valuable, although some of the data are repetitive, with chapters describing different groups, experience of imaging with this antibody. Although a straightforward overview might have been more helpful, this is, to some extent, provided by a chapter on a multicentre trial. Overall, the book suggests that radioimmunoimaging with this antibody has sensitivity and specificity comparable to conventional

methods of imaging. In some instances added information can be obtained by using antibody scanning in addition to other techniques. The subsequent chapters give similar information on the use of this antibody in imaging of ovarian carcinoma.

The final chapters on planar and SPECT imaging are more technical than the rest of the book, but nevertheless quite readable. The final chapter is a review of the possible future directions for this technology and puts some of the lessons to be learned from the clinical use of this antibody into perspective with the new developments in antibody engineering.

The restricted scope of this book is not as limiting as it first appears. Much of what can be done with antibodies has been done with B72.3, and this allows comparison of different techniques, which is valuable in such a field where few such comparative studies have been undertaken. The only major criticism is that much is already out of date as the data on the use of chimeric antibodies and on the development of second generation versions of B72.3 are not included. Nevertheless, the book is clear, well written, and succeeds admirably in fulfilling the aim of the series to describe the experience with a single product. As such it will be useful to those involved in the field and those seeking to enter it.

R. Hawkins

Basic Clinical Radiobiology

Edited by G.G. Steel, London: Edward Arnold, 1993, 233 pp. £24.95.

This book seeks to present in a concise way the main ideas and scientific developments that underlie clinicians' attempts

to improve the radiotherapeutic management of cancer. It achieves this aim admirably. Strong editing has produced a book which flows smoothly from chapter to chapter. The authors seem to speak with one voice and have been well chosen for their expertise. The origin of this book in ESTRO teaching courses means that the authors know one another and have cooperated well together. This particularly comes across in the use of figures where they are cross-referenced from chapter to chapter and not reproduced again and again. The book is full of clear diagrams which greatly enhance its value. This is a deliberate policy aimed at those who have a primarily visual memory and whose first language is not English.

From the point of view of a clinician time-dose relationships are clearly dealt with in a historic context by Bentzen and Overgaard. One of their conclusions is that models of response to radiotherapy become inevitably too complex to be defined by the available clinical data. Unfortunately, the same pitfall is then revealed in a subsequent chapter by van der Kogel and Ruifrok who propose a computer spreadsheet system for calculating iso-effect doses. These calculations rely heavily on repair factors about which we have limited knowledge even in animals. This chapter is also marred by the complete absence of reference to the work of Dale in this field.

Overall this is an excellent book for its targeted audience, namely a radiation oncologist with interest in the scientific basis of his subject.

M.V. Williams