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Adhesion molecules in health and disease

New York Basel Hong Kong:
Marcel Dekker 1997. 768 pp.
(ISBN 0-8247-9824-4) U.S.\$ 195.00.

In the handbook "Adhesion molecules in health and disease," 59 authors contribute to 27 chapters on a variety of subjects from cell trafficking (chapter 1) to morphogenesis (chapter 7), and from bone remodeling (chapter 16) to organ transplantation (chapter 26). We are guided into a world inhabited by large families of selectins, integrins, and chemokines, and their ligands, re-

ceptors, and responding cells. Cell-to-cell interaction, binding to extracellular matrix, signal transduction, cell differentiation, gene induction, cell migration, and inflammation are only a few of the functions described in which adhesion molecules are involved. Some chapters (1–12) are written from a cellular immunobiological viewpoint, e.g., chapters on mechanoreceptors or on neutrophil recruitment. Others (13–18) are focused on broader fields, e.g., atherosclerosis, tumor growth, and reperfusion injury. The last chapters (19–27) describe the role of adhesion molecules in organ-specific systems, e.g., pulmonology, rheumatology, and nephrology.

The result is an overwhelming compilation of facts and detailed information. However, it gives a first impression of a very rich soup. Tasty,

but don't eat too much of it because it will ruin your appetite. Just pick out the ingredients you prefer or need and leave the rest for others. This is, of course, what the book is meant for. It is unlikely that readers interested in artificial membranes (chapter 25) will also study adhesion molecules in neurology (chapter 19). Therefore, the book belongs not so much in the library of specialized units but rather in that of more coordinating departments, such as Internal Medicine, Surgery, Immunology, and Infectious Diseases. Better still, it should be available in the general library of every Medical School, where it can be used as a reference manual for all students, biomedical researchers, and teachers.

W. Weimar, Rotterdam