Epstein-Barr Virus (Infectious Disease and Therapy)

Alex Tselis and Hal B. Jenson, editors
Informa Healthcare, New York, New York 2006
ISBN: 0824754255
Pages: 436; Price US $189.95

Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) was the first recognized human tumor virus, but it is not the causative agent for the tumor in which it was discovered, Burkitt lymphoma. Common to all Burkitt lymphomas, endemic or sporadic, are distinctive chromosomal translocations that reactivate expression of the c-myc protooncogene and comprise the primary oncogenic mechanism.

EBV is at least a contributory cofactor in endemic Burkitt lymphoma, but the virus is detected in <20% of sporadic cases in the United States. EBV does cause infectious mononucleosis, hairy leukoplakia, and B-lymphoproliferative neoplasms in immunocompromised persons. In addition, the early and utterly consistent presence of monoclonal EBV episomes in nasopharyngeal carcinoma worldwide suggests a crucial role for the virus in that neoplasm. While tantalizing, associations with other diseases, well reviewed in this volume, are inconsistent and suggest that the virus may have another role beyond the etiologic, namely, by affecting the phenotype of already existing tumor cells and possibly propelling tumor progression.

This book is assembled mostly from a clinical perspective, and useful chapters on several of the EBV diseases bring together information not easily found elsewhere. Well-informed chapters on the virology and epidemiology of EBV infection are also included. One of the editors (whose list of milestones displays the clinical emphasis of the book) has provided a nice historical summary.

As is usual with such compilations, the editors leave it to the contributors to speak for themselves, and the quality of the chapters is uneven. Some fall short in citation of primary sources or favor the author’s view rather than one that weighs all the evidence. Withal it is a useful book, and having the less often discussed associations such as T-cell lymphomas and leiomyosarcomas assigned a place alongside authoritative chapters on the classic associations, nasopharyngeal carcinoma and Burkitt lymphoma, is convenient. The volume ends with a chapter on an EBV vaccine, which remains elusive after many years. In contrast, the penultimate chapter includes a brief summary of some successes with adoptive immunotherapy for posttransplant lymphoproliferative disease, which is generally refractory to conventional treatment. This volume is worth having for the cross-section of knowledge and developments in the EBV field it presents.

Joseph Pagano*
*University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA

Address for correspondence: Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina, CB 7295 Mason Farm Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7295 USA; email: Joseph_pagano@med.unc.edu

The Power of Plagues

Irwin W. Sherman
ASM Press, Washington, DC, 2006
ISBN: 1555813569
Pages: 442; Price: US $39.95

The purpose of this book is to make the science of epidemic diseases accessible and understandable; to guide the general reader through the maze of contagious diseases, their past importance, the means by which we came to understand them, and how they may affect our future. This commentary on general and disease-specific concerns covers the nature of plagues; plagues, the price of being sedentary (an evolutionary view); 6 plagues of antiquity (urinary schistosomiasis, the plague of Athens, malaria in Rome, the Antonine plague, the plagues of Cyprian and Justinian); bubonic plague; AIDS (including a history of virology and an account of leukocyte function); typhus; malaria (plus an explanation of sickle cell disease and genetics); cholera; smallpox; preventing plagues (the immune system, with a coda on vaccine development); the plague protectors (antisepsis and antimicrobial drugs); syphilis; tuberculosis; leprosy; 6 plagues of Africa (sleeping sickness, river blindness, guinea worm, yellow fever, malaria, and hookworm) with the history of exploration and exploitation of this continent; plagues without germs (pellagra, beriberi, scurvy, and rickets); and emerging plagues (rodentborne, West Nile virus, bovine spongiform encephalopathy and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, and influenza). The text covers not only the geography, history, microbiology, and physiology of these infections but also their influence on plastic art, movies, literature, and music (with a special fondness for nursery rhymes).
Surprisingly, the role of contemporary epidemiologic methods and governmental institutions is not examined. No explanation is included of how present-day public health officials go about detecting a problem, how they define an epidemic, how they use data such as incidence or attack rates to identify the cause, and how laws and regulations (e.g., vaccine requirements for school entry and rules for production of food and biological materials) are indispensable for disease prevention. The text would have profited from another round of editing to modify overly forceful generalizations, tighten the discussion, and check for historical and medical accuracy. For example, acyclovir is not AZT, and AZT was not available for first-line treatment of AIDS in the early 1980s; cholera is not slowly creeping into the Western Hemisphere, but it produced large epidemics in Central and South America in the 1990s; Figure 9.7B is not an antivaccination statement from Boston in 1902 but, as the engraving itself indicates, a provaccine statement from England in 1898; vaccination with Mycobacterium bovis BCG does not cause the tuberculosis test result to be negative; and malaria control efforts in the United States were not interrupted by World War II but, on the contrary, were enhanced by the creation of an agency called Malaria Control in War Areas.

This is a concise and clear account of the biologic and historical determinants of epidemic diseases. It is marred by a small number of factual errors and a failure to include epidemiologic and public health methods as components of the equation that determines the power of plagues.

José G. Rigau-Pérez*
*Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico, USA

Address for correspondence: José G. Rigau-Pérez, Centro de Investigaciones Históricas, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, PR 00931, USA; email: jrigau@prdigital.com

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**Molecular Principles of Fungal Pathogenesis**

Joseph Heitman, Scott G. Filler, John E. Edwards Jr, and Aaron P. Mitchell, editors

ASM Press, Washington DC, 2006
ISBN: 1555813682
Pages: 684; Price: US $149.95

This book offers advanced treatment of a broad selection of topics in molecular medical mycology authored by leading investigators. It assumes a foundation of knowledge of mycotic pathogens and is suitable for the reader who is well-grounded in molecular microbiology. It is highly recommended for investigators planning to conduct medical mycology research. The book is divided into 5 sections: General Principles, Model Systems, Specific Pathogens, The Host, and Future Directions. Only selected highlights are described here because of space limitations.

The book reviews the development of transforming and gene-silencing methods for identifying virulence determinants. An overview of Candida albicans virulence underlines that molecular subtyping has elucidated 3 major clades, which differ in their potential for producing superficial versus deep-seated infection. The first step in pathogenesis is adherence to host tissues. The endothelial and epithelial specificity of members of the C. albicans Als family of adherence molecules is defined by the adherence profile of null mutants. The discovery through the genome sequence of C. albicans mating type locus and the delineation of the unique pathway of a parasexual cycle are discussed. Although the population is largely clonal and seems locked in a diploid state, the species has a demonstrated ability to undergo recombination.

The phylogenetic species concept has led to a better understanding of the lineage of pathogenic fungi, especially for the mitosporic fungi, which have no known sexual stage. The evolution of fungal species, shown by multilocus sequence typing, enabled construction of a phylogenetic tree of all known fungal pathogens with assignments to well-described families and orders.

Mechanisms of resistance to antifungal agents are discussed, including insights from genome sequence analysis and recent clinical observations such as the role of transcription factors in upregulating efflux pumps in the presence of antifungal agents or steroids. How environmental fungi have acquired their pathogenic potential for humans, even those whose immune function is intact, is a puzzle, but clues come from the interaction of fungi with soil-dwelling amebae. Fungi escape endocytosis by converting from yeast to hyphal forms; this not only conditions them for intracellular survival but also suggests how dimorphism may have originated.

Transcriptional profiling using microarrays is a powerful tool for identifying genes expressed during mold-to-yeast morphogenesis and host-fungus interactions in infected tissue cultures and biofilms. Interspersed in the book are examples of exploiting this technology to discover key regulatory pathways.

No subject attracts more interest, yet is strewn with more pitfalls, than...
The Power of Plagues. This work offers a fascinating examination of epidemic diseases within a historical context, presenting the science of plagues in an understandable and accessible manner. It describes the nature and evolution of diseases and conveys their significance in shaping Western culture and civilization. 0 people like this topic. Portions of bibliographic data on books is copyrighted by Ingram Book Group Inc. Want to like this page? Sign up for Facebook to get started. The Power of Plagues book. Read 7 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. A fascinating examination of epidemic diseases within a histori... Let us know whatâ€™s wrong with this preview of The Power of Plagues by Irwin W. Sherman. Problem: Itâ€™s the wrong book Itâ€™s the wrong edition Other. Details (if other): Cancel. Thanks for telling us about the problem. Return to Book Page. The Plagues of Egypt (Hebrew: מכות מצרי× — Makkot Mitzrayim), in the story of the book of Exodus, are ten disasters inflicted on Egypt by the God of Israel in order to force the Pharaoh to allow the Israelites to depart from slavery; they serve as "signs and marvels" given by God to answer Pharaoh's taunt that he does not know Yahweh: "The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD".:117. These unreplicable plagues persuade Pharaoh and his people of Godâ€™s power and build faith in God among the people of Israel. As further evidence of the miraculous nature of the plagues, one midrash notes the biblical description of the plague of hail as a mixture of fire and ice, commenting: Imagine two fierce legions who were always at war with one another, but when the king needed their services for his own battle, he made peace with them, so that both should carry out the orders of the king.Â By this reckoning, what is important is not whether the firstborn died, but whether we can see the power of human redemption in our lives as flowing from the divine.Â (Rabbi Joy Levitt and Rabbi Michael Strassfeld, ed., A Night of Questions, 61). The power of plagues by Irwin W. Sherman; 1 edition; First published in 2006; Subjects: Communicable Disease Control, Epidemics, Diseases and history, Internet Archive Wishlist, Disease Outbreaks, Communicable diseases, History.Â The power of plagues 1 edition. By Irwin W. Sherman. Go to the editions section to read or download ebooks. The power of plagues. Irwin W. Sherman. The power of plagues. Â—Close. 1 2 3 4 5. Want to Read. Are you sure you want to remove The power of plagues from your list? There's no description for this book yet. Can you add one?