AZUROPHIL LEUKOCYTE GRANULES

To the Editor:

In a recent article, Newburger et al. describe Auer bodies of fetal leukocytes as a normal phenomenon in fetal hematopoiesis. This finding seems to be in accordance with our observations on the azurophil leukocytes of some primitive vertebrates (osseous fishes). In these animals (Perciformes, i.e., Anguilla anguilla, river eel), the azurophil granules of leukocytes appear under the electron microscope as elongated bodies containing fibrillar or fine tubular structures, which are very similar to some types of Auer bodies seen in human acute myeloid or myelomonocytic leukemias. These findings, together with the observations of Newburger et al., suggest that, in the course of ontogenesis, some phases of phylogeny are recapitulated and that, in disease states, some of these developmental phenomena may reappear ("depression" of genetic information; faulty rearrangement of genes?).

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REFERENCES


ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOURTH ANNUAL LEUKEMIA-LYMPHOMA-MYELOMA CONFERENCE

Longboat Key, FL
June 1–2, 1984

The aim of this conference, organized by the American Cancer Society, Florida Division, is to provide physicians interested in hemopoietic neoplasms the opportunity of acquiring new information in this area, and of interacting with faculty members from the three Florida medical schools, as well as guest speakers from other medical centers. This year's conference will focus on multiple myeloma and other monoclonal gammopathies, hybridomas and biomedical applications of monoclonal antibodies. Category I credit is offered. For further information, contact Henry A. Azar, M.D., Laboratory Service (113), J. A. Haley Veterans Hospital, Tampa, FL 33612. Telephone: (813) 972-2000, extension 504.

TUTORIAL ON NEOPLASTIC HEMATOLOGY

A tutorial on Neoplastic Hematopathology will be held at the Huntington Sheraton Hotel in Pasadena, CA on September 17–21, 1984. The Tutorial will be under the direction of Henry Rappaport, M.D. The registration fee (not including meals or housing) is $800.00. Further information may be obtained by writing Mr. Claude M. Weil, Tutorial Coordinator, c/o International House, University of Chicago, 1414 E. 59th Street, Chicago, IL 60637. Telephone: (312) 753-2277.
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