

Book review:

**L.G. Letts, D.W. Morgan (edts): Inflammatory processes. Molecular mechanisms and therapeutic opportunities.**

Birkhäuser Verlag AG, Basel, Berlin, Boston, 2000, 168 CHF, ISBN: 3-7643-6025-9

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This textbook is based upon a conference of new drug discovery for inflammatory diseases held at Hershey, Pennsylvania in October 1998. The chapters include the status of various cytokines, their application and derived substances in bronchial asthma and allergy, rheumatoid arthritis, lung fibrosis, tumor suppression, or wound repair. In addition to immunologic effects aspects of angiogenesis and gene expression are included. The textbook focuses on molecular biological data, and describes the role of transmitters, gene expression, and cellular signaling on the mentioned human diseases. As it is derived from a scientific conference, it is somewhat heterogeneous in the different chapters. It is written for experts working in the covered field and contains many details. To judge the importance of the mentioned facts and their ranking for the clinical routine is difficult, especially, as conclusions or summarizing facts are not provided in each chapter. The strength of the textbook is a presentation of detailed and recently discovered facts of molecular mechanisms involving a broad spectrum of human inflammatory diseases.

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