

## Book Review

### PARASITES IN THE IMMUNIZED HOST

*Parasites in the Immunized Host: Mechanisms of Survival.* Ruth Porter and Julie Knight (Editors). Ciba Foundation Symposium 25 (new series), London, November 13th–15th, 1973. Published in collaboration with Associated Scientific Publishers, Amsterdam, London, New York, 1974, 280 pages, 26 tables, 42 figures, Dfl. 41.75, US \$ 17.75.

Despite the fact that parasites provoke immune responses in their host, they appear to have adapted themselves to those responses in ways which ensure their survival and transmission.

At the symposium, 14 papers were presented, in which these escape mechanisms were further discussed for some protozoan and helminth infections. Each paper is followed by a discussion. A literature list is attached to every presented paper, but also to the discussion, which makes it easy to find other relevant literature for the interested reader.

A final chapter is devoted to conclusions and summarizes the knowledge of the various escape mechanisms of parasites. For the veterinary parasitologist, it is perhaps a pity that no special chapter deals with the inhibition of nematode larvae, but other mechanisms are discussed in detail. (Antigenic variation as an escape mechanism is mainly discussed for trypanosomes, plasmodia and briefly for babesia.) Interesting for the mechanism of antigenic variation, is the chapter on the genetics of this phenomenon in the free-living *Paramecium*.

Immuno suppression is mainly discussed for plasmodial and trypanosomal infection, whereas the uptake of host antigen is an important escape mechanism in Schistosomiasis. The production of soluble antigens found in various parasitic diseases might be of some importance for the survival of the parasites. Survival of parasites in macrophages is another mechanism which is not clearly understood, but will certainly assist some parasites to escape the defense mechanism of the host.

The symposium brought parasitologists and immunologists together in order that they might gain insight into each other's research problems and methods, and indicate pathways whereby their findings can be used to prevent or eliminate the survival of the parasites in both man and animal.

Bringing together these two disciplines has great advantages, although the risk exists that they do not always understand each other's language. For the uninitiated reader in one of those fields it would therefore perhaps be an advantage if a small glossary could have been attached. The book is indispensable for everybody who wants to update his knowledge concerning the fascinating aspects of host–parasite relations.

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