

Book review

***From genes to phenotypes: the basis of future allergy management.* Lowenstein H, Bienenstock J, Ring J, (editors). Hogrefe & Huber Publ., Cambridge (MA), Gottingen 2006. 265 pages. Euro 64.95. ISBN 0-88937-298-5.**

The Collegium Internationale Allergologicum (CIA) is a group of leading scientists and doctors from all over the world who meet every 2 years to present and discuss, in an outstanding symposium, their most recent unpublished research. The CIA is a 'numerus clausus' organization with very selective criteria of admission. Only one contribution from each research group can be presented at CIA Symposia by group leaders or upon invitation.

If you are not a member of the CIA but you wish to be part of this sophisticated club, the book 'From Genes to Phenotypes' will allow you to

be aware of data presented at the last CIA meeting held in Bornholm.

Most symposia proceedings are quite heterogeneous in their contents. On the contrary, the book of H. Lowenstein, J. Bienenstock and J. Ring answers the need of including the 70 contributions into 10 homogeneous sections which go from Basic Mechanisms of Allergy (Allergens, Allergy Regulatory and Effector Cells) to Clinical Aspects (such as Asthma, Food Allergy, Diagnostic and Therapy).

The book is also immune from another defect of symposia proceedings, i.e. to be old at the time of publication. In fact, as all contributions presented at CIA meetings represent the most recent unpublished research from top centers, the volume published by Hogrefe & Huber becomes an update Year Review of the most recent and exciting allergy papers.

In the road from genes to phenotypes the publication covers topics such as gene-environment interactions, T-cell regulation, new molecules and receptors, signal transduction mechanisms of inflammatory cells, new therapeutic approaches to allergic diseases (anti-IL-5, DNA vaccination, anti-IgE therapy, molecules which induce tolerance or immune deviation).

As each contribution is quite short (3–4 pages), the main message of it is emphasized and easily captured by readers.

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