

next year, Wirsüng was assassinated. His mentor, Wesling, was accused of the crime, the motive for which was rumored to be jealousy, but was eventually acquitted. Such vignettes add spice to the history of these discoveries and offer insight into the people who had a role in the history of knowledge about the pancreas and the times in which they lived. The studies that led to the determination of the function of the exocrine pancreas include those of Johann Conrad Brunner, who examined the effect of ligation of the pancreatic duct in dogs, the work of others who determined the acidity of pancreatic juice by tasting it, and Tiedemann and Gmelin's identification of the role of pancreatic juice and bile in digestion.

Subsequent chapters focus on the history of acute and chronic pancreatitis, the discovery of the pancreatic islets and their relation to diabetes, and the identification of various tumors specific to this gland. The development of interventional approaches is presented in detail, including the first endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography in 1965 by Rabinov and Simon, radiologists at Boston's Beth Israel Hospital, and the Whipple procedure in 1934 by Allen Whipple at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York. Many medical history books would stop at this point. This book, however, continues the journey into the present, bringing us up to date on contemporary researchers, new surgical procedures including islet-cell transplantation, and recently discovered genes.

Although I initially found the size of this textbook daunting, the book is easy to read. This is in part owing to the fascinating portrayal of each of the major players who participated in developing our present understanding of the pancreas. It also reflects the authors' understanding of the history of medicine itself—especially how discoveries were made before the era of high technology. This book will benefit not only anyone interested in the pancreas and the gastrointestinal tract, but also readers who want insights into the history of medicine.

Steven D. Freedman, M.D., Ph.D.

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Boston, MA 02215
sfreedma@caregroup.harvard.edu

Book Reviews Copyright © 2003 Massachusetts Medical Society.

THE JOURNAL'S WEB AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

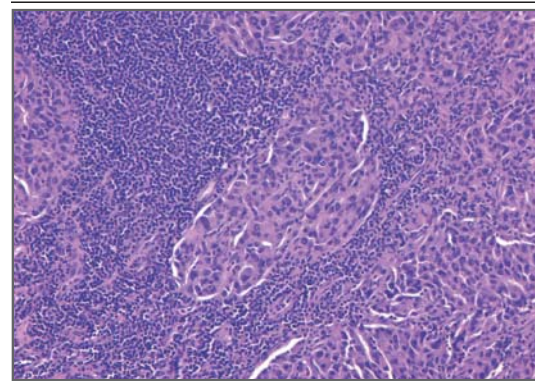
For letters to the Editor: <https://secure.nejm.org/letters>
For information about the status of a submitted manuscript: <http://www.nejm.org/hfa/papertrail>
To submit a meeting notice: meetingnotices@nejm.org
The Journal's Web pages: <http://www.nejm.org>

CORRECTIONS

The Autistic-Spectrum Disorders (August 1, 2002;347:302-3). On page 302, lines 4 and 5 in the second paragraph of the left-hand column should have read "4 cases per 10,000 persons," not "0.4 case per 10,000 persons," as printed.

The New Medical Malpractice Crisis (June 5, 2003;348:2281-4). In the figure legend on page 2282, one of the sources of the data was omitted: "Trends in 2002 Rates for Physicians' Medical Professional Liability Insurance," Medical Liability Monitor, October 2002. We regret the error.

Noninvasive Detection of Clinically Occult Lymph-Node Metastases in Prostate Cancer (June 19, 2003;348:2491-9). The image shown in Figure 3E on page 2497 is incorrect; the correct image appears below.



NOTICES

Notices submitted for publication should contain a mailing address and telephone number of a contact person or department. We regret that we are unable to publish all notices received. Notices also appear on the Journal's Web site (<http://www.nejm.org/meetings>). The listings can be viewed in their entirety or searched by location, month, or key word.

NATIONAL HUMAN SUBJECTS PROTECTIONS

A workshop and conference, entitled "Today's Research, Tomorrow's Issues," will be held in San Francisco, Sept. 22–24.

Contact Friends Research Institute Conference Center, 8706 Commerce Dr., Suite 1, Easton, MD 21601; or call (800) 413-3837 (national) or (410) 763-7620 (Maryland); or see http://www.friendsresearch.org/ohrp_conference.html; or e-mail friconferencediv@friendsresearch.org.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF EMERGENCY RADIOLOGY

The "14th Annual Scientific Meeting" will be held in Las Vegas, Oct. 22–26.

Contact ASER, 4550 Post Oak Pl., Suite 342, Houston, TX 77027; or call (713) 965-0566; or fax (713) 960-0488; or see <http://www.erad.org>; or e-mail pvinje@meetingmanagers.com.