BOOK REVIEW

Immunohematology Methods and Procedures
(Reprinted with permission from Transfusion, published by the American Association of Blood Banks.)

This excellent manual, edited by Delores Mallory and published by the American Red Cross National Reference Laboratory Committee, is intended for reference laboratories and other large transfusion services. Seven chapter authors and 30 other contributing immunohematologists have shared their considerable knowledge and experience by writing and assembling this comprehensive manual. It was developed to promote the use of standard methods for routine and special procedures and to evaluate those currently in use, with the objective of providing uniform testing protocols.

The spiral-bound manual is divided into two units: Procedures and Methods. The first unit contains 11 chapters describing principles and useful procedures for special studies and solving problems: ABO discrepancies and Rh typing problems; alloantibody detection and identification; investigation of warm and cold autoantibodies, drug-associated antibodies and passively administered antibodies; polyagglutination; micromethods; red cell survival studies; hemolytic disease of the newborn; and planning of a family study. The appropriate methods used in each procedure are indicated by their number, for easy reference to the Methods section.

The second unit consists of 139 clearly written, easily understood, numbered methods, subdivided into 13 sections. Each has a brief introduction of principles and an equally brief interpretation. References for each method (often the original references) are included, and notes are added when appropriate and necessary for accuracy and interpretation of test results.

A duplicate set of the methods is provided, printed on synthetic paper and suitable for binding in a standard three-ring binder. The individual methods pages may be removed for use at the bench or reassembled into smaller sections for routine use or special studies, or they may be combined in any way that is useful for the laboratory staff. The special paper may be cleaned with bleach or other mild cleaning solution if necessary. The numbered methods are also dated; they can be updated, or modified versions may easily be added or substituted.

A wide variety of methods (from Ashby counts to ZZAP treatment of red cells) have been assembled by the authors. Special methods for solving ABO and Rh typing problems, antibody identification, polyagglutination, hemolytic anemia, and hemolytic disease of the newborn are described. Sixteen elution methods, five red cell separation procedures, five micromethods, and four red cell survival measurements are detailed. The preparation of enzyme-treated, drug-coated, IgG-coated (Coombs control), and C3b- and C4b-coated cells is included, as are freeze-thaw techniques, reagent and solution preparation, pipette calibration, and scoring titrations.

The abbreviations used in the text, a list of suppliers and equipment manufacturers, and a subject index are included in the appendices. It is evident that this manual has been compiled by individuals who have had extensive experience at the bench and are familiar with many of the procedures and methods used there. The manual would be a valuable reference for any blood bank or transfusion service that wishes to improve and increase its laboratory testing and to add to its staff’s understanding of more complex serologic studies.

Jane L. Swanson, MS, MT(ASCP)SBB
University of Minnesota Blood Bank
Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology
Box 609, 420 Delaware Street, SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

ATTENTION SUBSCRIBERS: MISPRINT
Our office has received six phone calls, to date, about printing errors found in Immunohematology, Volume 10, No. 3, mailed in September. Some subscribers have found the same page repeated four or five times, the same article repeated two or three times, or pages missing.

Please look over your copy carefully. The pages run consecutively from 75 to 107. If you note a printing error, please call Connie Rivera at (301) 738-0526 for a replacement. We regret any inconvenience.