Introduction to the review articles

Welcome to the third issue of 2004, celebrating Immunohematology’s 20 years of publication. As with the first two issues of 2004, it contains four invited review articles. This issue’s focus is on diagnostic uses of immunohematology serologic testing.

The first review is a recurring favorite, “Drug-Induced Immune Hemolytic Anemia—The Last Decade,” by George Garratty, PhD. Over the years, the editors of Immunohematology have invited Dr. Garratty to write review articles on drug-induced hemolytic anemia and he has kept our readers current. This review continues the tradition with another excellent review.

The second and third reviews focus on what to do when all units of blood are incompatible. Serologic aspects are covered by Sandra Nance and Patricia Arndt; these aspects include the testing often performed in the immunohematology reference laboratory (IRL) and monocyte monolayer assays performed as a specialty test in two IRLs in the United States. This second review also includes cases that demonstrate the points under discussion. Dr. Geralyn Meny reviews clinical responses when all units of blood are incompatible and reminds us of all the elements that should be considered when this situation arises in your facility.

Dr. Larry Petz completes the invited review section with “Evaluation of Patients With Immune Hemolysis.” This review takes the reader through the differential diagnoses of a patient that presents with immune hemolysis and discusses the importance of the precise diagnosis in prognosis and therapy.

This third issue is a good mix of reviews that discuss serologic testing and clinical use of results for diagnostic and therapeutic measures. These reviews are written by authors with a great deal of experience in their field. I sincerely hope you enjoy the issue as much as I have enjoyed being the guest editor.

Sandra T. Nance, MS, MT(ASCP)SBB
Member of the Editorial Board and
Guest Editor of this issue,
American Red Cross Blood Services
Penn-Jersey Region
700 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123