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Timely appearance for this treatise on radionuclides

Nuclear Oncology, by C Aktolun and W N Tauxe. Published by Springer-Verlag Germany, price £114.50.

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This is a 450-page volume is devoted to all aspects of the use of radionuclides for the diagnosis and treatment of tumours. As Henry Wagner says in his Foreword: "Nuclear oncology is the fastest growing branch of nuclear medicine and is likely to achieve the same prominence in medicine as nuclear cardiology." Thus, a volume devoted specifically to nuclear oncology, including diagnosis and therapy, is very appropriate.

Radionuclide therapy dates from the early post-World War II period when the widespread availability of Iodine 131 led to its use for the therapy of differentiated carcinoma of the thyroid. Since then, apart from sporadic attempts at treating cancer with a variety of radiopharmaceuticals, there was relatively little development of radionuclide therapy. Recently, there has been a great increase in interest in the subject, especially in the field of neuroendocrine tumours. Thus the appearance of this volume dealing with both diagnosis and therapy in the various common and rare cancers is very appropriate.

The book is divided into two sections; a large section dealing with neuroendocrinology and other tumours, including treatment of pain from metastatic bone tumours. There are also chapters on lym-

phoscintigraphy by one of the pioneers, Dr G N Ege, and pulmonary tumours by Dr C Aktolun. The second part of the book concentrates on special techniques and radiopharmaceuticals and includes chapters on PET, receptor imaging, somatostatin imaging, monoclonal antibodies, the assessment of multi-drug resistance and the evaluation of side-effects of radiotherapy.

Being published in 1999, the book is up-to-date, well illustrated and referenced.

Most of the chapters have been written by well known people, experienced in the field, with relatively little overlap between chapters. There is equal emphasis on the diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of cancer.

It is an excellent reference book which will be valuable for all oncologists and radiologists as well as the nuclear medicine fraternity, trained and in training. It certainly deserves a place in the hospital library.