

Book Reviews

Siddell, Stuart G. (Ed.): *The Coronaviridae. The Viruses* (Eds. H. Fraenkel-Conrad and R. R. Wagner), 418 pages, 64 figs., 24 tables, Plenum Press, New York–London, 1995, \$ 107.40

Coronaviruses represent a group of viruses with a diameter of 120–160 nm; they are pleomorphic but roughly spherical in shape and exhibit characteristic club-shaped surface projections extending from the viral envelope. The nucleocapsid with helical symmetry contains one molecule of single-stranded RNA of positive polarity. Coronaviruses are the causative agents of important infections of animals and man. In 1975, they have been accepted as a separate virus family by the International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses. Based on the observation of fundamental similarities in genome organization and replication strategy, the toroviruses have been assigned to the *Coronaviridae* in 1992. First recognized in 1968, coronaviruses have contributed considerably to our general knowledge and understanding of the molecular biology of viruses, virus cell interactions and may aspects of viral pathogenesis.

The *Coronaviridae*, edited by *Stuart G. Siddell*, which appeared in 1995 as a volume within the series, *The Viruses*, excellently reflects these advances in virus research. Experts in their fields have contributed to this volume which not only presents an overview of knowledge about the *Coronaviridae* but also forms a bridge between the specialized review level and related fields of interest in other virus systems. The 19 chapters in this book are grouped into two sections, with those in the first discussing the aspects of the molecular biology of coronaviruses and toroviruses while the second section presents selected aspects of coronavirus and torovirus infections in man and animals, making it also invaluable for clinicians and veterinarians interested in coronavirus-related diseases. The volume is well-written, packed with information and supplemented with useful figures and tables. The list of references is as up-to-date as possible and extending into the year of publication. This excellent book will not only be the standard reference book on this important family of viruses for the next years to come but it will also be worth buying for everyone interested in the scientific study of viruses as well as the pathogenesis of viral diseases.

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Oldstone, Michael B. A. and Ljubisa Vitkovic (Eds.): *HIV and Dementia. Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology*, Vol. 202, XIII, 279 pages, 40 figs., Springer-Verlag, Berlin – Heidelberg – New York – London – Paris – Tokyo – Hong Kong, 1995, DM 192.–, öS 1401.60, sFr 181.–

This book comprises papers presented at a conference held in 1994 under the title ‘Pathogenesis of HIV Infection of the Brain’. Disorders of the nervous system are not an uncommon but a most vexing facet of HIV disease. Eighteen individual contributions address the neuropsychiatric disorders observed during the course of HIV infection, detail experience from animal models and describe relevant observations made during in-vitro experiments. The fact that nearly all contributions to this volume end with a long list of questions reflects the state of our present insight into the interaction between HIV and the CNS. Since it seems to be clear that HIV does not directly infect neurons, the numerous indirect actions imaginable should be and are actually explored to understand the pathogenesis of HIV-related