cluded) and the subject index is poor. When trying to find a particular name or subject one needs patience and time. This is especially clear when one realises that the book has more than 640 pages and likely the same number of subjects treated. Unfortunately, the poor indexes are common for the books published after the conferences, so the latter comments are of a more general relevance.

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Fatty acids and inflammatory skin diseases, J.-M. Schroder (ed.) Progress in Inflammation Research (PIR), Birkhaser Verlag, Basel, 1999, 177 pp., ISBN 3-7643-5847-5

The book on the role of fatty acids in inflammatory skin diseases appears as one of the PIR series; four other devoted rather to the medical aspects of this problem have been published under the titles:

- "Medicinal fatty acids in inflammation", Kremer, J.M., eds., 1998, 154 pp.;
- "Chemokines and skin", Kownatzki, E., Norgauer, J., eds., 1998, 140 pp.;
- "Cytokins in severe sepsis and septic shock", Rede, H., Schlag, G., eds., 1998, approx. 300 pp.;
- "Inducible enzymes in the inflammatory response", Willoughby, D.A., Tomlison, A., eds., 1998, approx. 200 pp.

Those five books form a compedium of our recent knowledge on the inflammatory processes. I presume that the biochemists collaborating with hospitals would like to have all of them on their hand-shelf. In the reviewed book biosynthesis of fatty acids in the skin cells is presented together with their further modifications by metabolic enzymes and the oxidative burst induced by inflammations. An interesting hypothesis on transcellular leukotriene synthesis is presented in Fig. 6 (p. 24 and adjacent page). This hypothesis, substantiated by experimental data of other workers evoke our understanding about fatty acid products as signaling molecules. One chapter is devoted to the role of eicosanoids in psoriasis and atopic dermatitis and reflects the state of art: a lot of experimental data which do not lead to disclosing the complex chain of consecutive reactions. In contrast, the chapter "Modulation of inflammatory and hyper-proliferating processes" written by a nestor, V.A. Ziboh, is an excellent review with a clear idea and stimulating hypothesis. The chapter "Strategies for the analysis of fatty acid mediators of inflammation" could be very useful for the analytical researcher.

The book includes many chemical formulas of the presented compounds and schemes of reactions which facilitate understanding and are very helpful in the search for pertinent data.

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