Advances in Immunology

Rapid progress has been made in the field of immunology during the past two decades, and significant advances have been made not only in the basic theoretical aspects of immune mechanisms, but also in their practical clinical applications. These applications are clearly evident in several areas of clinical medicine related to diagnosis, management, and therapy of various immunologic and other diseases. Immunology clearly represents a discipline in which the boundaries between research and development on the one hand and accepted clinical practice on the other are continuously evolving and shifting, and these rapid changes have led to the development of various subspecialties within the general area of immunology.

Immunopathology represents one such area of subspecialization in which the focus is primarily on the study of the immunologic mechanisms in various disease entities with emphasis on the use of laboratory procedures for clinical diagnosis and management. Such procedures have now found wide application in virtually every specialty in clinical medicine and the articles presented in this issue of the CLEVELAND CLINIC QUARTERLY reflect this wide spectrum of activities currently being carried out at our institution. The studies reported in this issue cover different areas in clinical medicine, including autoimmune diseases, transplantation immunology, cancer immunology, endocrine immunology, immunodermatology, use of monoclonal antibodies in surgical pathology, and finally, the rapidly developing area of flow cytometry and its clinical applications. The studies reported here are but a small reflection of the great interest at our institution in this fascinating, rapidly developing area of clinical medicine.

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