particularly in the review of subacute sclerosing panencephalitis in which the 1981 report by Hall and Choppin on the inability to isolate M protein of measles virus in the brain in SSPE is neither referenced nor discussed.

The final chapter, "Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy," deals most extensively with pathology. It is a readable review of not only the pathogenesis of the disease but also the properties and epidemiology of JC virus.

Each article includes many references and provides an authoritative review of the subject. This volume is a valuable library resource for the neuropathologist seeking a review of any one of the four topics.

Richard T. Johnson, M.D.


Information about human polyomaviruses has expanded rapidly over the last decade and now is of considerable interest to a wide range of professionals including microbiologists, epidemiologists, and clinicians. Several new human viral agents have been defined and characterized, and their role in human disease has been clarified. Some, including BJ and JC viruses, apparently commonly infect and persist in humans without producing acute disease. Of these agents, JC virus undoubtedly produces progressive and universally fatal neurologic disease and some may be found to cause human central nervous system cancers as well. The discovery that the human demyelinating disease, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) was caused by the JC virus has been of major interest. The recent demonstration that PML is at times associated with the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) will further extend the interest of many scientific groups in the human polyomaviruses.

A conference on the human polyomaviruses was held at the National Institutes of Health in June 1982 and this volume is a record of those proceedings. It is divided into three major sections; Virology, Epidemiology, and Neurologic Diseases. Much of it is highly technical in nature and thus will be of interest primarily to laboratory workers in the field of human polyomaviruses, especially virologists who may benefit from the new techniques described. Current information is provided about the wide distribution of these agents in human populations. The relationship between immunosuppression and appearance of clinical states due to polyomavirus infection is well documented. Finally, several chapters are devoted to the current information available on PML and also to experimental studies of the production of various cerebral neoplasms by polyomaviruses of human and other species origin.

This book is printed in an attractive style, although the reproduction of histologic figures, and, more importantly, various virus protein gel patterns is at times less than ideal. A useful index is provided. As a fairly current review of a large amount of information about the human polyomaviruses, the book will be of value to a wide variety of clinicians. Unfortunately, each of these groups will only find a few of the 31 individual presentations of personal value and interest.

Kenneth P. Johnson, M.D.