

EDITORIAL

Since Blumberg's discovery of the Australian antigen in 1963, knowledge and insight into Hepatitis B virus infection have progressed by leaps and bounds. The epidemiology, natural history and transmission of the disease have been studied. The precise nature of the virus has been defined and its genetic material cloned. Sensitive laboratory tests have been developed for the screening and specific diagnosis of patients. The industry and hard work put into this field over the past 15 years have been most gratifying and it is noteworthy that pathologists have been well in the forefront. More recently, the availability of Hepatitis B vaccines has focussed medical and public attention onto programmes for the prevention of Hepatitis B infection: an area of worldwide significance and considerable local interest. It was in view of this that the Malaysian Society of Pathologists in its 8th Annual General and Scientific Meeting in 1983 chose 'Hepatitis B update' as the topic of its symposium. The present issue of the Journal also highlights symposia articles on the field of Hepatitis B virus infection.

While the Hepatitis B story may soon come to a happy ending, there is still considerable controversy and confusion among pathologists over the nature and classification of non-Hodgkin's lymphomas. The recently introduced working formulation has allowed comparisons to be made between the various existing classifications but has not satisfied questions on the fundamental nature of the disease. With the availability of immunohistochemistry and high quality antisera, lymphomas are being viewed more and more on the basis of their biological and immunological characteristics. A review article on the subject is featured in this issue of the Journal and it is hoped that readers will find it a useful guide in the **histopathological** diagnosis and classification of non-Hodgkin's lymphomas.

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Editor