

## BOOK REVIEW

*Immunological Factors in Human Contraception*. Edited by S. Shulman and F. Dondero. Field Educational Italia—Acta Medica, Rome 1983, 234 pages.

This book presents the material discussed at the International Meeting on Immunologic Factors in Human Contraception held in Rome, Italy in 1982. Presentations were made by representatives from Bulgaria, Denmark, England, France, India, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Scotland, the United States, and West Germany.

The historical aspects concerning conception control utilizing immunologic methods are well covered. Avenues for future investigation are outlined, but probably outcomes are theoretical due to the lack of antigen specificity and proper methodologies currently utilized to determine the possible side effects of immunologic manipulations. We must first understand the mechanisms of immune regulation before we will be able to manipulate them appropriately.

An acceptable immunologic method to prevent the union of the sperm and the egg requires a predictable response, lack of hypersensitivity, neutralization of possible cross reactivity, and reversibility. These factors are only briefly mentioned throughout the text.

Unfortunately, the text is extremely difficult to read due to the lack of uniformity of typing from one contribution to another, and the lack of uniformity in which the individual presentations were submitted for publication.

This book has failed to achieve its desired aims in that the topics discussed are not totally focused as to the ultimate goal of this meeting concerning applications of immunologic factors to control human conception. Too many of the presenters just reiterated old data without presenting anything new. The few papers that dealt with new factual material were few and far between, and therefore this reviewer would not recommend purchasing this book.

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