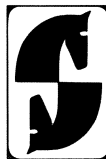


Dermatopathology

W.H.C. Burgdorf Th. Nasemann
M. Jänner B. Schütte

Dermatopathology

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WALTER H. C. BURGDORF, M.D.

Professor and Chairman, Department of Dermatology, University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131/USA

Professor Dr. THEODOR NASEMANN, Professor Dr. MICHAEL JÄNNER, Dr. BÄRBEL SCHÜTTE
Universitäts-Krankenhaus Eppendorf, Hautklinik, Martinistr. 52, D-2000 Hamburg 20/Fed.
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Introduction

It is a great honor to be allowed to present my concepts of basic dermatopathology. I have long joked that I wished to write a book entitled *Dermatopathology for Dick and Jane* (with apologies to the author of my first-grade reader), but finally concluded that a more dignified title—*Dermatopathology*—was more appropriate. This book is aimed at a very specific readership—first-year residents in pathology and dermatology, as they begin to learn skin pathology. My hope is that the book will be used, worn out, and retired to the bookshelf as the young physician's sophistication increases. Thus, a copy that is pristine and not dog-eared has not fulfilled its purpose.

This little manual cannot compete with the classic dermatopathology texts. In particular, Walter Lever and Hermann Pinkus served as inspirations to me when I began studying dermatopathology, and they have been most kind to me as our paths have crossed. I surely have nothing to say that they have not already said. I can only promise to keep this manual as simple, as accurate, and as small as possible, while blending a few of my own concepts with the vast literature available. Each reader should plan to refer extensively to either Dr. Lever's or Dr. Pinkus' introductory text. Both are superbly referenced. Thus, in the interest of simplicity, I have included no references; instead, there is a review of available literature entitled "Further Readings" (p. 211).

Dermatopathology is both a new and old text. My teacher and summer home neighbor in Bavaria, Professor Theodor Nasemann, and his associates at the University of Hamburg, in

1982, published (in German) *Histopathologie der Hautkrankheiten*. Dr. Nasemann has graciously allowed me to write my own English text, completely reorganizing and changing his already superb text, but using about one half of his photomicrographs and all of his line drawings. I have taken the balance of the photomicrographs myself, while Dr. Curt Littler has provided a number of new illustrations. Dr. Littler, who is somewhat closer to his first year of residency than I, helped to write the introductory chapters with the goal of providing just that information which his contemporaries would find most useful.

I must add that I take full responsibility for this text. I only have taken the idea of a manual and the illustrative material from my German colleagues. The entire text (thus, all concepts and factual errors) is entirely mine. The decision not to use references and to add introductory chapters also was mine. I would appreciate constructive criticism from any readers who feel they can help me to improve on future editions.

I thank Professor Theodor Nasemann not only for allowing me to use his German text as a framework for my American version; I also thank him and his family for their friendship and support, starting with my days as a general medical officer in Germany, ranging through my 6-month fellowship at the Goethe University in Frankfurt (where I studied dermatopathology daily with Professor Nasemann), and continuing to the present, as we remain close friends.

I also want to thank my three teachers of

dermatopathology at the University of Minnesota, (listed in alphabetical order) Louis “Pepper” Dehner, Robert W. Goltz, and Juan Rosai. All three tolerated my stupidity when I was a young resident; through their encouragement and teaching, I grew into an acceptable dermatopathologist. My fellow residents in Minneapolis were such good dermatopathologists that they too served as teachers. Several of my other teachers in Minneapolis—notably Bruce Bart, Irv Katz, Kenneth Manick, Milton Orkin, Willard Peterson, and Jack

Uecker—also contributed to my development in dermatopathology, as have my colleagues here at the University of Oklahoma—Mark Allen Everett, Euan M. McMillan, Jan Pitha, Dennis Weigand, and Ron Wheeland.

Finally, I thank my parents, who stimulated my interest in learning and remain to this day my two “smartest” teachers. And my wife Dorothee, who manages to tolerate my incessant reading and still maintain enthusiasm about my feeble, but time-consuming, attempts at writing.

Summer, 1984

WALTER H. C. BURGDORF