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SCHISTOSOMA MANSONI:

The Parasite Surface in Relation to Host Immunity

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Research, London*

A consideration of the ultrastructural and immunological properties of the developing parasite surface in relation to survival within the vertebrate host. Although man has a highly developed immune surveillance system, schistosomes are able to live actively in blood vessels for many years after infection. Continuous egg laying by the parasites generates intense tissue reaction and pathology, as well as maintaining transmission within the community. Crucial for parasite survival in this environment are the cellular structure and reactions which occur at the interface of parasite and host.

This monograph considers in detail the structural and immunological properties of the developing parasite surface and its relationship to parasite survival in the immunocompetent host. It draws together the established and very recent information on the morphological, immunological and physiological properties of the developing schistosome surface, so that the reader may be immediately aware of the interrelationships of these various disciplines.

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