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CONTENTS AND CONTR

VOLUME ONE

Part I. Introduction and General Principles

1. Pathophysiology of nervous system diseases *Justin C. McArthur, Guy M. McKhann, W. Ian McDonald, Peter J. Goadsby and Arthur K. Asbury*
2. Genetics of common neurological disorders *Orest Hurko*
3. Repeat expansion and neurological disease *J. Paul Taylor, Andrew P. Lieberman and Kenneth H. Fischbeck*
4. Cell birth and cell death in the central nervous system *Samuel J. Pleasure and David E. Pleasure*
5. Neuroprotection in cerebral ischemia *Jin Moo Lee and Dennis W. Choi*
6. Promoting recovery of neurological function *Ted Abel and Michael E. Selzer*
7. Measurement of neurological outcomes *Jeremy Hobart and Alan J. Thompson*
8. Principles of clinical neuro-epidemiology *Michael D. Hill and Thomas E. Feasby*
9. Principles of therapeutics *Peter J. Goadsby*
10. Windows on the working brain: functional imaging *John A. Detre and Paul D. Acton*
11. Windows on the working brain magnetic resonance spectroscopy *James W. Prichard, Jeffrey R. Alger, Douglas Arnold, Ognen A. C. Petroff and Douglas L. Rothman*
12. Windows on the working brain: evoked potentials, magnetoencephalography and depth recording *Hans-Joachim Freund and H. J. Heinze*

Part II. Disorders of Higher Function

13. Congenital disorders of cerebral cortical development *Ganeshwaran H. Mochida and Christopher A. Walsh*
14. The aging brain: morphology, imaging and function *Guy M. McKhann and Marilyn S. Albert*
15. Neurodegenerative diseases *Stanley B. Prusiner*
16. Aging and dementia: principles, evaluation and diagnosis *Sudha Seshadri and David A. Drachman*
17. Alzheimer's disease *Raymond J. Kelleher and John H. Growdon*
18. Dementia with Lewy bodies *Pamela J. McLean, Estrella Gómez-Tortosa, Michael C. Irizarry and Bradley T. Hyman*
19. Frontotemporal dementia *Bruce L. Miller, Howard J. Rosen and Michael Greicius*
20. Consciousness and its disorders *Antonio R. Damasio*
21. Mechanisms of memory and amnesic syndromes *John Gabrieli and Silvia A. Bunge*
22. Acquired disorders of language *John Hart and Ola A. Selnes*
23. Neglect *Kenneth M. Heilman*
24. Brain death *James L. Bernat*
25. Disorders of mood *Dean F. MacKinnon and J. Raymond DePaulo*
26. Schizophrenia *Paul J. Harrison*
27. Obsessive-compulsive disorder *Bavanisha Vythilingum, Dan J. Stein and Scott L. Rauch*
28. Autism and autistic spectrum disorders *Barry Gordon*
29. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: spectrum and mechanisms *Martha Bridge Denckla*
30. The neurobiology of drug addiction *Charles A. Dackis and Charles P. O'Brien*

Part III. Disorders of Motor Control

31. Mechanisms of motor control *James Ashe and Apostolos P. Georgopoulos*
32. The apraxias *Ramón Carlos Leiguarda*
33. Parkinson's disease *Marian L. Evatt, Mahlon R. DeLong and Jerrold L. Vitek*
34. Other extrapyramidal syndromes *Kailesh P. Bhatia*
35. Tremors *Jyh-Gong Hou and Joseph Jankovic*
36. Myoclonus *Paul W. Brown*
37. Dystonia *Barbara Illowsky Karp, Susanne Goldstein and Mark Hallett*
38. Tourette syndrome *Donna J. Stephenson and Harvey S. Singer*
39. Cerebral palsy *Alexander H. Hoon and Michael V. Johnston*
40. Gait and balance disorders *John G. Nutt and Fay B. Horak*

Part IV. Disorders of the Special Senses

41. Smell *Richard L. Doty and Steven M. Bromley*
42. Taste *Steven M. Bromley and Richard L. Doty*
43. Disorders of vision *Anthony Morland and Christopher Kennard*
44. Oculomotor control: normal and abnormal *David S. Zee and R. John Leigh*
45. Hearing *Linda Luxon*
46. Vertigo and vestibular disorders *Thomas Brandt*

Part V. Disorders of Spine and Spinal Cord

47. Spinal cord injury and repair *John W. McDonald*
 48. Myelopathies *Phillip D. Thompson and Peter C. Blumbergs*
 49. Diseases of the vertebral column *Simon F. Farmer and Lucinda J. Carr*
 50. Cervical pain *Nikolai Bogduk*
 51. Diagnosis and management of low back pain *Donlin M. Long and Mohammed BenDebba*

Part VI. Disorders of Body Function

52. Autonomic function and dysfunction *Christopher J. Mathias*
 53. Human brain-gut interactions: mechanisms of swallowing, visceral perception and anal continence in health and disease *Shaheen Hamdy*
 54. Eating disorders: neurobiology and symptomatology *David C. Jimerson and Barbara E. Wolfe*
 55. Sleep and its disorders *Robert Y. Moore and Eric A. Nofzinger*
 56. Bladder and sexual dysfunction *Oliver J. Wiseman and Clare J. Fowler*
 57. Hypothalamic/pituitary function and dysfunction *Roberto Salvatori and Gary Wand*

Part VII. Headache and Pain

58. Peripheral nociception and the genesis of persistent clinical pain *Richard J. Mannion and Clifford J. Woolf*
 59. Central nervous system mechanisms of pain *Fred A. Lenz, Patrick M. Dougherty and Joe D. Greenspan*
 60. Management of chronic pain *Russell K. Portenoy and August Caraceni*
 61. Migraine *Michel D. Ferrari and Joost Haan*
 62. Cluster headache, other trigeminal autonomic syndromes and the short-lived headaches *Peter J. Goadsby*
 63. Orofacial pain *Steven B. Graff-Radford*
 64. Chronic daily headache *Stephen D. Silberstein and Richard B. Lipton*

VOLUME TWO

Part VIII. Neuromuscular Disorders

65. Pathophysiology of nerve and root disorders *Jonathan D. Glass*
 66. Toxic and metabolic neuropathies *Shawn J. Bird and Arthur K. Asbury*
 67. Guillain Barré syndrome *John D. Pollard and Judith M. Spies*
 68. Hereditary neuropathies *Mary Reilly and Peter K. Thomas*
 69. Disorders of neuromuscular junction transmission *Vinay Chaudhry and Daniel B. Drachman*
 70. Disorders of striated muscle *Richard W. Orrell and Robert C. Griggs*
 71. Pathophysiology of myotonia and periodic paralysis *Stephen C. Cannon and Alfred L. George, Jr.*
 72. Pathophysiology of metabolic myopathies *Salvatore DiMauro and Ronald G. Haller*

Part IX. Epilepsy

73. The cellular basis of epilepsy *Robert S. Fisher and Jie Wu*
 74. Clinical spectrum of epilepsy *Renzo Guerrini, Lucio Parmeggiani and Pierre Thomas*
 75. Status epilepticus *Hannah Cook and Simon Shorvon*
 76. Assessment of the patient with epilepsy *John Duncan*
 77. Principles of pharmacotherapy of the epilepsies *Emilio Perucca*
 78. Epilepsy surgery: disease treatment and investigative opportunity *Guy M. McKhann and Matthew Howard*

Part X. Cerebrovascular Disorders

79. Physiology of the cerebral circulation *Peter J. Goadsby and Richard P. White*
 80. Stroke syndromes *Louis R. Caplan*
 81. The treatment of acute ischemic stroke *Robert A. Felberg and James C. Grotta*
 82. Behavioral manifestations of stroke *Richardo E. Jorge and Robert G. Robinson*
 83. Intracerebral hemorrhage *Juan R. Carhuapoma and Daniel F. Hanley*
 84. Aneurysms and arteriovenous malformations *Marcus A. Stoodley and Bryce K. A. Weir*
 85. Hereditary causes of stroke *Martin Dichgans*
 86. Prevention management of stroke *Gillian E. Mead and Charles P. Warlow*

Part XI. Neoplastic Disorders

87. Primary brain tumors in adults *John Lateral and Henry Brem*
 88. Brain tumors in children *Peter C. Phillips and Michael A. Grotzer*
 89. Brain metastases *Roy A. Patchell*
 90. Paraneoplastic syndromes *Jerome B. Posner*
 91. Harmful radiation on the nervous system *Jeremy H. Rees and Michael Brada*

Part XII. Autoimmune Disorders

92. Immune mechanisms in neurological disease *Hans-Peter Hartung, Klaus V. Toyka and Bernd C. Kieseier*
 93. The basis of immunotherapy in neurological disease *Reinhard Hohlfeld*
 94. Vasculitis of the nervous system *David Hellman and John H. Stone*
 95. Sarcoidosis of the nervous system *John Zajicek*
 96. Collagen-vascular disease and the nervous system *Michael J. Regan and John H. Stone*

Part XIII. Disorders of Myelin

97. Myelination, demyelination and remyelination *Alastair Compston*
 98. Multiple sclerosis and its pathophysiology *W. Ian McDonald, Maria A. Ron and Gavin Giovannoni*
 99. The diagnosis and management of multiple sclerosis *David Miller and Alan J. Thompson*
 100. Leucodystrophies *Hugo Moser and Kunihiko Suzuki*

Part XIV. Infections

101. Host responses in central nervous system infection *David N. Irani and Diane E. Griffin*
 102. Viral diseases of the nervous system *Larry E. Davis*
 103. Neurological manifestations of HIV infection *Justin C. McArthur*
 104. Neurological manifestations of HTLV-I infection *Mitsuhiro Osame*
 105. Clinical features of human prion diseases *Robert Will*
 106. Bacterial infections *Dakshin Gullapalli and Thomas P. Bleck*
 107. Parasitic disease *Julio Sotelo and Kaethe Willms*
 108. Lyme disease *Patricia K. Coyle*
 109. Neurosyphilis *Louis Reik, Jr*
 110. Tuberculosis *Yukari C. Manabe and Richard Chaisson*

Part XV. Trauma and Toxic Disorders

111. Head trauma *M. Sean Grady and Tracy K. McIntosh*
 112. Environmental toxins and neurological disease *Jennifer B. Sass, D. Merglet and Ellen K. Silbergeld*
 113. Alcohol neurotoxicity *Ivan F. Diamond and Steven L. McIntire*
 114. Neurological consequences of drug abuse *John C. M. Brust*

Part XVI. Degenerative Disorders

115. Genetically engineered models of neurodegenerative diseases *Philip C. Wong, Huaibin Cai, David R. Borchelt and Donald L. Price*
 116. Motor neurone disease *Pamela J. Shaw*
 117. The hereditary ataxias *Puneet Opal and Huda Y. Zoghbi*
 118. Huntington's disease *Christopher Ross and Russell L. Margolis*
 119. Progressive cerebral degeneration of childhood *Gerald V. Raymond*
 120. Mitochondrial encephalopathy opathies *Anthony H. V. Schapira and Salvatore DiMauro*

Part XVII. Neurological Manifestations of Systemic Conditions

121. Neurological aspects of pregnancy *Peter W. Kaplan*
 122. The brain and the cardiovascular system *James L. Januzzi and Guy M. McKhann*
 123. Neurological complications of hepatic disease and gastrointestinal disease *Benjamin H. Eidelman*
 124. Renal disease and electrolyte disturbances *G. Bryan Young and Charles F. Bolton*
 125. Disorders of intracranial pressure *Romergrzyko G. Geocardin and Michael A. Williams*
 126. Neurologic manifestations of endocrine disease *Gary M. Abrams and Cheryl A. Jay*
 127. Neurological manifestations of hematological diseases *Martin A. Samuels*
 128. Neurocutaneous syndromes *E. Steve Roach*
 129. Neurological complications after organ transplantation *Eelco F. M. Wijdicks.*

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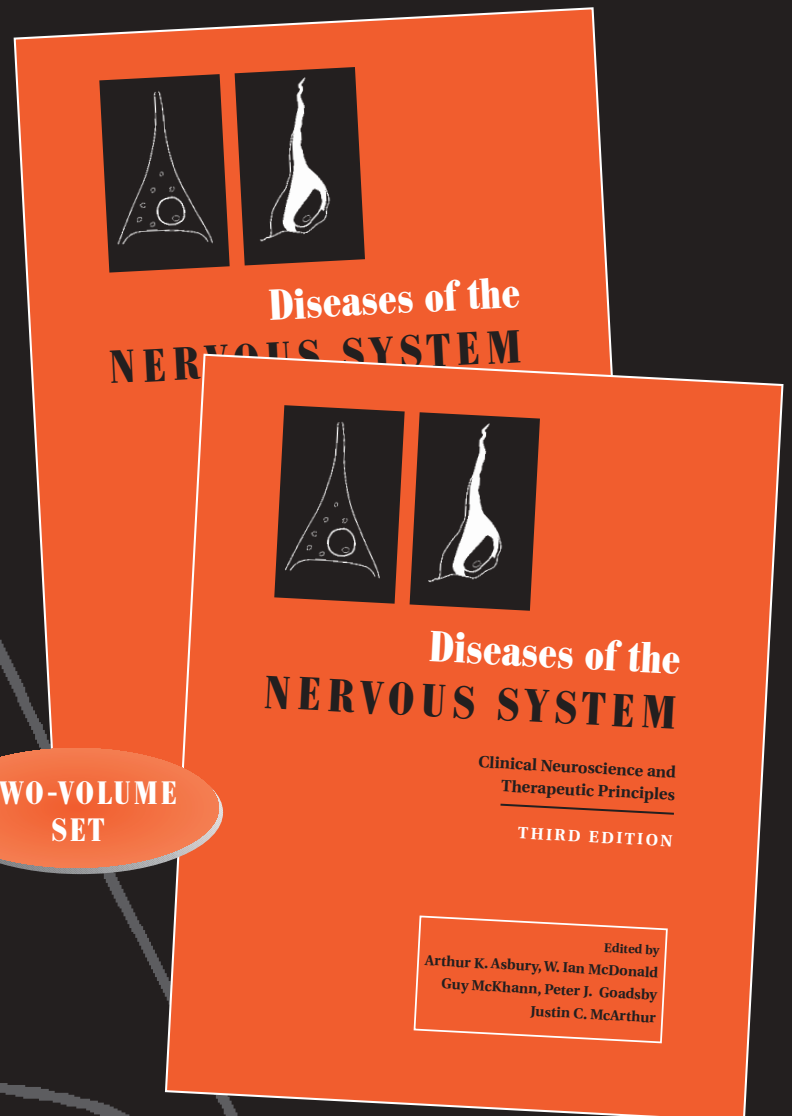
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and characterized functional connections between primary auditory cortex located within Heschl's gyrus and a secondary auditory field of the posterior superior temporal gyrus (Howard et al., 2000) (Fig. 78.4).

This same group has been systematically investigating the century old hypothesis that a functional connection exists between Wernicke's and Broca's area. Wernicke reasoned that a connection must exist between the auditory receptive region of the posterior superior temporal gyrus and a motor speech centre within the posterior inferior frontal gyrus. Results of blunt dissection postmortem examinations have demonstrated large fibre bundles (e.g. superior longitudinal fasciculus and arcuate fasciculus) that might represent components of the hypothetical rostral connection. However, this method is incapable of accurately resolving connections from one cortical site to another. Using the electrical stimulation tract tracing method in robust patients, investigators recently demonstrated a robust functional connection between the posterior superior temporal gyrus and the posterior inferior frontal gyrus (Fig. 78.5). The physiological characteristics of this connection indicate that information is being conducted along large callosal axons at velocities that are among the highest known to exist in the central nervous system.

Investigations of higher cortical function

Many advances in brain neurobiology have been catalyzed by the development of new research techniques. In the realm of experimental animal research, many of the most powerful and widely used brain research techniques are invasive. In instrumentation is positioned directly within brain tissue. In order to study the electrophysiological characteristics of individual brain neurons, for example, it is necessary to place a small recording electrode within approximately 100 µm of the cell being studied. Microdialysis techniques, whereby the extracellular fluid in a select brain region is extracted and analyzed, also require positioning a fine instrument directly into brain tissue.

The brain is the most highly evolved organ of the human species. And many fundamental questions concerning human cognition, speech neurobiology, and our evolution from non-human primates can only be addressed by studying human subjects. Additionally, the ability of humans to follow commands and describe experiences makes them uniquely cooperative research subjects for investigators in order to understand how the brain modulates affective shifts of attention from one environmental stimulus to the next. This can be accomplished in humans as

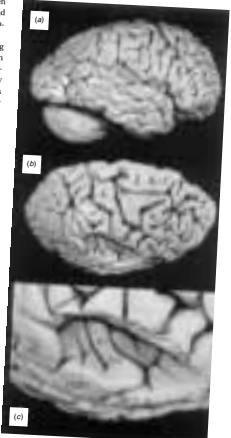


Fig. 78.4. Photographs of the laminar surface (a) and respective temporal plane (b), (c) of a postmortem human brain, showing the relative size and location of a discrete auditory cortical field (PST). This field was identified and characterized using direct recording and electrical stimulation tract-tracing techniques in functionally connected to primary auditory cortex, but medial surface of the brain.

1306 H.-P. Hartung et al.

106

Bacterial infections

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Infections of the central nervous system (CNS) are notable for rapid progression resulting in death or permanent damage in a very short time (Baraff et al., 1993; Grimwood et al., 1995). CNS infections share many distinct characteristics, which distinguish them from systemic infections. The CNS is confined anatomically within a bony case which allows little room for expansion following inflammatory responses; the resulting increase in intracranial pressure may cause severe damage to the structures within. The CNS also lacks a well-developed conventional immune system to defend against offending pathogens, and thus infections are more difficult to eradicate than in the periphery. Because of the presence of the blood-brain barrier (BBB), delivery of antimicrobial agents in adequate concentrations is difficult. As vital tissues are involved, CNS infections can cause devastating sequelae, and in some cases may result in both medical emergencies. Understanding their pathogenesis, neuroanatomical principles and neuroimmunological providing effective treatment.

Meningitis was first described in detail by Gaspard Vesucius as malignant purpuric fever in 1805 following an outbreak in Switzerland. Following the introduction of lumbar puncture in 1891 by Quinke, the CSF changes associated with meningitis were recognized, and attempts made at treatment with CSF drainage and irrigation with a variety of fluids. Survival from bacterial meningitis improved following the development of horse antimeningococcal antiserum and its intrathecal and systemic administration by Simon Flexner during the first world war. However, a much more substantial impact on outcome followed the advent of antimicrobial therapy. Although sulfonamides were discovered in 1908, their antibiotic potential was not appreciated until 1932 with the discovery of sulfachryosidine (Pontosal). The subsequent isolation of penicillin by Howard Florey in 1941 further improved survival from bacterial meningitis. Though the techniques of its administration and dosage

Bacterial meningitis

Bacterial meningitis is an inflammatory response to infection of the pia-arachnoid and the CSF of the subarachnoid space. Since the subarachnoid space is continuous throughout the neuraxis, this inflammation extends throughout the subarachnoid space as well as ventricles. When there is accompanying obvious brain involvement, it is more appropriately called meningoencephalitis. Histologically, most meningitides include some parenchymal involvement, but when clinical signs of meningeal inflammation predominate one traditionally refers to the condition as meningitis. Knowledge of the anatomic details and CSF flow pathways is important to understand the pathophysiological manifestations.

Historical background

Meningitis was first described in detail by Gaspard Vesucius as malignant purpuric fever in 1805 following an outbreak in Switzerland. Following the introduction of lumbar puncture in 1891 by Quinke, the CSF changes associated with meningitis were recognized, and attempts made at treatment with CSF drainage and irrigation with a variety of fluids. Survival from bacterial meningitis improved following the development of horse antimeningococcal antiserum and its intrathecal and systemic administration by Simon Flexner during the first world war. However, a much more substantial impact on outcome followed the advent of antimicrobial therapy. Although sulfonamides were discovered in 1908, their antibiotic potential was not appreciated until 1932 with the discovery of sulfachryosidine (Pontosal). The subsequent isolation of penicillin by Howard Florey in 1941 further improved survival from bacterial meningitis. Though the techniques of its administration and dosage

1306 H.-P. Hartung et al.

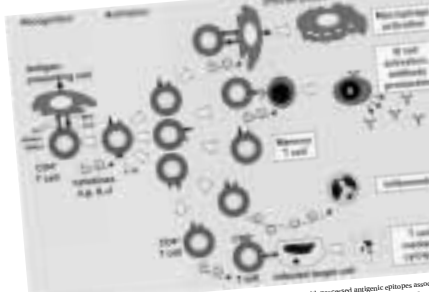


Fig. 92.4. The different stages of T-cell responses. T-cell activation first requires contact with processed antigenic epitopes presented with MHC class II molecules displayed on antigen-presenting cells and perception of additional costimulatory molecules. Up-regulation of IL-2 receptors (IL-2R) occurs and IL-2 drives T-cells into clonal proliferation during the activation stage. The effector stage is diverse. Multiple pathways lead to activation of macrophages and B cells. CD8 cells cause MHC class I restricted target cell lysis. CD4 drives release of cytotoxic granules, perforin and granzymes. A second mechanism of delivering a lethal hit, though in all likelihood more commonly utilized by a small proportion of CD4 cytolytic T cells, involves up-regulated expression of Fas ligand and its interaction with Fas (CD95) exhibited on the recognized target (Suda et al., 1993).

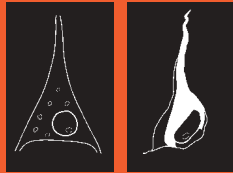
T-cell receptor

Unlike antibodies, T-cell receptors are produced as transmembrane molecules only. They are composed as heterodimers and consist of an α and β or γ and δ chain. Each chain contains a variable and constant domain. Similar to the immunoglobulin, the variable domains contain three complementarity-determining regions (CDR) (see Fig. 92.5). In the case of the α/β T-cell receptor these regions recognize a complex formed by a peptide selected within the groove of an MHC molecule. In contrast, most γ/δ T cells do not recognize antigen in the form

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