BOOKS RECEIVED

Pituitary Today II. New Molecular, Physiological and Clinical Aspects. 2010. Edited by Eduardo Arzt, Marcello Bronstein, Mirtha Guitelman. Published by Karger. 218 pages. C$185 approx.

Color Atlas of Human Anatomy, Sixth Edition. Volume 3: Nervous System and Sensory Organs. 2010. By Werner Kahle, Michael Frotscher. Published by Thieme. 412 pages. C$50 approx.

Controversies in Pediatric Neurosurgery. 2010. By George I. Jallo, Karl F. Kothbauer, Gustavo Pradilla. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 263 pages. C$145 approx.

Parkinson's Disease. Clinician's Desk Reference. 2009. By Donald G. Grosset, Katherine A. Grosset, Michael S. Okun, Hubert H. Fernandez. Published by Manson Publishing. 176 pages. C$65 approx.

Controversies in Spine Surgery. Best Evidence Recommendations. 2010. By Alexander R. Vaccaro, Jason C. Eck. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 279 pages. C$145 approx.

Psychoanalysis in a New Light. 2010. By Gunnar Karlsson. Published by Cambridge University Press. 209 pages. C$36 approx.

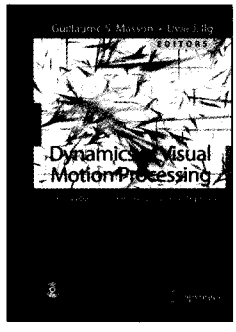
Laboratory Diagnosis in Neurology. 2010. Edited by Brigitte Wildemann, Patrick Oschmann, Hansotto Reiber. Published by Thieme. 271 pages. C$150 approx.

Nerve Cells and Animal Behaviour. Third Edition. 2010. By Peter Simmons, David Young. Published by Cambridge University Press. 284 pages. C$46 approx.

BOOKS REVIEWED

Dynamics of Visual Motion Processing. Neuronal, Behavioral, and Computational Approaches. 2010. Edited by Guillaume S. Masson and Uwe J. Ilg. Published by Springer. 349 pages. C$205 approx.

Rated ☆☆☆☆



Experimental studies of the visual system are certainly one of the most fascinating areas of neuroscience, and it could be argued that the visual system is the best understood of the sensory systems, since there has been so much scrutiny from the cellular level to the perceptual level. The visual system has become the leading model for investigation of other sensory systems, and "Dynamics of Visual Motion Processing" is an example of how esoteric the theoretical frameworks have become.

For the reader determined to develop some understanding of the high level "psychophysics" of human motion perception, this collection of papers fortunately starts with a review of the different classes of visual stimuli and how they relate to various aspects of biological motion processing. The editors understand that the complex form-motion interactions of visual processing have both behavioural and neurophysiologic aspects which do not lend themselves to isolated study; therefore, in this attractive volume they have collected papers that emphasize an integrative approach to the problem of how the brain measures an object's visual surface as it stands out from its complex environment.

This collection of highly specialized papers is made more accessible and understandable to the average neurologist interested in the visual system thanks to the inclusion of a DVD joined to the book which has movies to accompany the chapters. The benefits of a multimedia presentation of some of the information in this volume cannot be overemphasized. The movies are amazing and without the DVD to accompany the text many of the key points embedded in the highly specialized jargon of the text would have been lost on me. Having said that, even with the inclusion of the DVD, this book is not for the faint of heart, but for the intrepid neuroscientist who wishes to push back the frontiers of his or her understanding of the visual system in the same way as an English Literature student might take up the challenge of reading a difficult text such as *Finnegan's Wake*, knowing that Joyce would not have aimed it at the general reader. Just as *Finnegan's Wake* made an impact on popular culture beyond the awareness of it being difficult, I expect this book on the dynamics of visual processing will have a significant impact in the academic field of visual neuroscience as it represents an impressive step forward in terms of documenting how the brain functions.

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