etc.) but the papers and their individual topics are fairly disparate and technical, and the sections seem arbitrary. A number of papers in several sections have nothing to do with vasospasm specifically but rather are about other brain aneurysm topics. The showcase presentation of the conference, the results of the CONSCIOUS 1 trial that tested the ETA receptor antagonist clazosentan in a phase 2 randomized controlled trial, is not represented in the book (but are to be published shortly in the journal Stroke). The index is short and incomplete. However my greatest criticism is that aside from a very brief introductory paper entitled "Advances in vasospasm research" there is no overview provided, either for the book as a whole or what would have been even better, for each subject and section. What would have been most welcome is an editorial preface and comment for each section introducing, explaining and tying together the papers to follow, almost all of which focus on a very small (and sometimes obscure) aspect of vasospasm. There is nothing to be found, for example, that even remotely resembles the first three paragraphs of this review, which are my attempt to introduce the readership to the subject of cerebral vasospasm and the very volume I am reviewing. This is an unfortunate editorial oversight, and the consequence is a virtually uninterpretable book to those outside the vasospasm field, and for those on the inside, we are better waiting for the peer-reviewed (and improved) versions of the book's papers in scientific journals.

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PRACTICAL CSF CYTOLOGY. AN INTERACTIVE TRAINING COURSE FOR NEUROLOGISTS, NEUROPATHOLOGISTS AND LABORATORY PHYSICIANS. 2008. By Harald Kluge, Stefan Insenmann, Hans-Juergen Kuehn, Martin M. Kluska, Valentin Wieczoek, Otto W. Witte. Published by Thieme. CD-ROM. Price C$50.

The authors have compiled a generous collection of CSF cytology diagnostic challenges in an attractive and interactive CD format. Cases are arranged in a quiz format with an optional and brief review/training session as well. The review and quiz together are readily completed in less than an hour and cover most commonly encountered entities in CSF cytology.

Overall, the quality of the publication is very good with good to very good image quality. The text is largely adequate and brief, facilitating an efficient tour of the material. In some instances, the case images would be improved by further annotations. Similarly, in some instances, quiz answers could be improved by more thorough annotations and more detailed rationales for correct and incorrect interpretations. Finally a few interpretations and explanations are debatable and include unnecessary conjectural statements. While these are not fatal flaws, they leave room for improvement for a future edition.

For the resident, preparing for practice and examinations, and for the practicing Neuropathologist, the CD accomplishes its goals and represents an easily accessed bank of cases and questions for learning and review of CSF cytology. We are unaware of a similar resource and so it will be a welcome addition to Pathology training programs and their respective libraries and to the bookshelves/CD racks of Neuropathologists and cytotechnologists. We give it a 7 out of 10.

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PARKINSON'S DISEASE - GENETICS AND PATHOGENESIS. 2007. Edited by Ted M. Dawson. Published by Informa Healthcare USA, Inc. 408 pages. Price C$260.

As a student, and even when I began my residency, it was taught that Parkinson's disease (PD) was a degenerative condition and that there was no definitive role for genetics in its pathogenesis. In 1997 two findings turned the world of Parkinson's research upside down: 1) alpha-synuclein was identified as a key constituent of Lewy bodies and 2) a large family with early onset dominantly inherited Parkinson's was linked to a mutation of the alpha-synuclein gene. Since these discoveries, well over 5000 publications are listed on PubMed under "genetics + Parkinson's disease".

Dr. Ted Dawson, a world renowned scientist in the field of Parkinson's disease, has assembled a "who's who" collection of authors for this tome. The book is organized into four sections: Overview, Genetics, Pathogenesis, and Animal Models. The writing styles obviously vary but the structure of each chapter is similar and allows for some continuity.

The chapters on genetics were generally well done. I was a bit disappointed that the chapter on LRRK2, the gene felt to play a role in more cases of PD by far than all the other genes combined, was only 7 pages long (including references). While it was a good summary, it was not what I expected given the length and depth of the other chapters.

The section on animal models included genetic and toxin-induced PD models from research on rodents, monkeys, worms and fruit flies. This section concludes with a brief but useful and easily readable chapter on drug trials in animal models.

There is a sincere attempt by the editor and the authors to try to connect the various genes with one another (wherever possible) and with the subcellular structures such as the mitochondria and ubiquitin-proteosome system in a meaningful and coherent manner. It is a commendable effort and generates a number of discussion points.

Given the rapid advances in Parkinson's disease, this book is valuable as a "one-stop" reference. I do not suggest reading it cover to cover however as there is a lot of material to digest and it does not make for easy reading. The chapters on treatment of Parkinson's disease and the MPTP model were two chapters that were engaging and easy to read as a clinician. In particular, the MPTP chapter was very well written and informative and provided an excellent history of the development of MPTP and the first human parkinsonism cases linked to this toxin.

I will nitpick on a few points. The chapter on alpha-synuclein and PD was well written and referenced, however the conclusion was not a summary but a brief statement of recent advances and did not allow for proper closure. Another chapter had no article titles in the references. There was actually more clinical information on PINK1 parkinsonism in the first chapter on Neuropathology and Staging than in the chapter devoted solely to PINK1 parkinsonism. There is some overlap between the chapters, which isn't necessarily a bad thing.

The figures are in black and white which undoubtedly lowers the production cost. While colour photos or figures are nice, the lack of this does not significantly detract from the quality of the book.

This book is not intended for a practicing general neurologist. Even for a movement disorders clinician without particular basic science interest, I would suggest reading a review article on genetics and Parkinson's rather than purchasing this book.

I recommend "Parkinson's Disease – Genetics and Pathogenesis" for those with a particular interest in basic science, genetics, and animal models and how those interact in PD and PD models. It also makes for a great Neurology library reference book that may inspire future clinician-scientists to further our understanding of Parkinson's.

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MONOGRAPHS IN HUMAN GENETICS NEUROFIBROMATOSES. VOLUME 16. 2008. Edited by Dieter Kaufmann. Published by Karger. 192 pages. Price C$190.

"Neurofibromatosis" is one volume is a series of Monographs in Human Genetics focusing on Neurofibromatosis. It provides a detailed and timely review of our current knowledge of Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF-1), Neurofibromatosis Type 2 (NF-2) and Schwannomatosis, and specifically of the recent genetic advances in identification of mutations and molecular mechanisms of these conditions. The major focus of this book is on NF-1, given that this is, by far, the most common clinical entity of the three. The book's editor and most chapter authors are geneticists, so the main thrust is on the genetic aspects.

The first two chapters provide a comprehensive overview of the current classification, treatment and management of NF-1. The first chapter focuses on the definition and classification of these syndromes, and succinctly outlines the clinical features of NF-1. Included is a detailed table listing the various features and complications of this disease, and the age at presentation of those features, which would be very useful for the clinician caring for NF-1 patients. While specific subtypes of NF-1 are described which have much more uniform findings in families, the authors note that these account for only 5% of cases. For most NF-1 patients, there remains considerable variation in presentation among affected members. The second chapter focuses on management, and provides good reviews of the challenges of surgical therapies for plexiform neurofibromas, and treatment of optic nerve gliomas, pseudoarthroses and malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumours.

The NF-1 protein, neurofibromin, is a tumour-suppressor gene, which downregulates the biological activity of the RAS pathway, thus regulating cell growth and differentiation. The third chapter reviews other disorders affecting the RAS system and outlines some of their overlapping phenotypes, as these conditions may provide clues on possible disease-causing genes and better therapies for malignancies associated with NF-1. The chapters focusing on gene structure, genotype/phenotype correlations (or lack thereof), NF-1 mutation analysis and NF-1 gene evolution were difficult reading and would be more relevant to a molecular geneticist than a clinical neurologist. The last two chapters in the NF-1 portion focus on the composition of neurofibromas and NF-1 expression and somatic NF-1 mutations in tumours and other tissue, and provide a useful overview of the pathogenesis of these lesions.

Two chapters are devoted to NF-2 and the role of merlin in tumor formation. The various mutation types, the higher prevalence of mosaicism (20-30%) in non-familial NF-2 cases and challenges of genetic counseling in such individuals, and the therapeutic challenges are well summarized. The final chapter is devoted to Schwannomatosis, and provides a brief overview of distinguishing features from NF-2 and the genetics of this condition.

In summary, this volume provides a timely update, mostly focusing on the recent advances in genetics and molecular mechanisms in these disorders. However, it is clear that for most patients, we are still far from being able to predict the phenotype based on the genotype. Given its main focus is on genetics and molecular mechanisms, this book would be most useful to Neurogeneticists or Neurologists with a strong interest in Neurogenetics.

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NEW ANIMAL MODELS OF HUMAN NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES. BIOVALLEY MONOGRAPHS. VOLUME 2. 2008. Edited by P. Poindron, P. Piguet. Published by Karger. 100 pages. Price C$109.

This monograph is the second in a series of BioValley monographs; the BioValley being an area bordered by Bassel, Frieburg, Strasbourg and Mulhouse. The text includes five monographs and an introductory chapter for a total of 100 pages. On the whole, it is well written although the exact aim of the text is a little unclear, particularly as 4 of the 6 chapters are scientific monographs while 1 (the second chapter) is a review article.

Chapter 1 provides a general overview of the development of animal models of human disease and gives a succinct summary of the relative pitfalls in over-interpretation of animal models. In particular, I found the emphasis on isomorphic versus homologous models useful and a nice framing of the subsequent chapters.