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SUPPLEMENT

**EXPERIMENTAL AND CLINICAL
ASPECTS OF CEREBELLAR FUNCTION**

Proceedings of a Symposium
held in Montreal, Quebec



The Official Journal of

The Canadian Neurological Society
The Canadian Neurosurgical Society
The Canadian Society of Clinical Neurophysiologists
The Canadian Association of Child Neurology

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Introduction

The symposium entitled Experimental and Clinical Aspects of Cerebellar Function was organized by the Centre de recherche en sciences neurologiques of the Université de Montréal in association with the Third IBRO (International Brain Research Organization) World Congress of Neuroscience and was held in Montreal, August 10-11, 1991. The symposium was intended to bring laboratory scientists together with clinical investigators to discuss new methods and discoveries related to cerebellar function. The recent discovery by Posner and collaborators that the paraneoplastic cerebellar syndrome is the result of autoantibodies has important implications for neurology, oncology and immunology. Sotelo's work demonstrating that, in the mouse, cerebellar Purkinje cells can be successfully transplanted from a healthy embryo into an animal with an inherited Purkinje cell atrophy is one of the more exciting laboratory discoveries with implications for clinical research. In recent years, many animal studies, some of which are reviewed here, have suggested that the cerebellum plays an important role in motor learning and Roland's work using PET imaging techniques confirms this important hypothesis. Although the symposium concluded with a round-table discussion about the perspective of drug therapy for cerebellar atrophy, this still remains more wishful thinking than an actuality. However, it was felt that workshops in which basic and clinical scientists indulge in a frank exchange of ideas will undoubtedly lay the eventual foundation for treating cerebellar disease. It is hoped that the following papers will be as stimulating for the readers of the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences as it was for the symposium participants.

Allan M. Smith