Adrenoleukodystrophy by the world authority Dr. Hugo Moser. I found the Psychiatry and Neurosurgery sections enlightening and helpful and overall the presentations of short chapters on discrete individual subjects were helpful.

My overall feeling about this book is that it doesn't have anything different to offer compared to the texts mentioned above. There is a tendency, probably because the chapters are very short, to give a brief review of many complex disease entities: e.g. Congenital Myopathies has six pages, half of which are taken up by three large tables, this wouldn't help if one had a newly diagnosed Myopathy on the ward or in clinic and wanted to give advice about the natural history or possible outcome of one of these rare entities.

This book could be part of a Pediatric Neurologist's library and could be read with interest by Pediatric Neurology Residents in training or Pediatric Residents who wanted to look up specific questions. It is a pleasant book to read with occasional gems of information or summaries. Overall, however, it does not offer anything new over the other textbooks which have all been published recently and it is quite expensive for a book of its type.

Noel Lowry
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

ATYPICAL PARKINSONIAN DISORDERS: CLINICAL AND RESEARCH ASPECTS. 2005. Edited by Irene Litvan. Published by Humana Press. 512 pages. Price C$225.

There is a growing awareness among neurologists of atypical parkinsonian conditions, perhaps best evidenced by the improvements in pathologically confirmed diagnostic accuracy of Parkinson's disease from 76% to approximately 90% over a mere decade. While the thought of yet another book on parkinsonian disorders may understandably elicit a less than enthusiastic response from an already battle-weary readership, this book fills an important niche. It addresses a significant problem that may be of special interest to Canadians, given the landmark contributions of Steele, Richardson and Olszewski to the description of progressive supranuclear palsy.

The book comes with a DVD that includes video and audio clips as well as the text. This is an important plus, as one can move effortlessly from text to illustrative examples and some contributors have made very good use of this. All of the chapters have concluding summary statements and suggestions for further research (of variable insight) and many list websites that may be of benefit to the readership and to patients desperate for reliable information on these uncommon conditions. The introductory chapter by the Editor, Irene Litvan, highlights some of the problems in this field: (1) spinocerebellar atrophies are listed as a cause of atypical parkinsonism, yet the presentation in some patients can be indistinguishable from idiopathic sporadic Parkinson's disease; (2) recently published concensus criteria for the various atypical disorders have improved the degree of diagnostic specificity, but are associated with rather poor sensitivity; (3) even the emerging trend to classify these disorders as synucleinopathies (e.g. Parkinson's disease, multiple system atrophy) vs. tauopathies (e.g. progressive supranuclear palsy, corticobasal degeneration, frontotemporal dementias) may reflect an overly optimistic view of our knowledge, as even these boundaries are beginning to collapse. Thus, Parkinson's due to mutations of leucine-rich repeat kinase 2 (LRRK2) may be associated either or both forms of pathology, and there is considerable evidence for interactions between the two proteins, reviewed in an excellent chapter by Goedert & Spillantini. The concluding chapter by Lees also draws attention to the confusion arising from the fact that multiple pathologies can result in the same clinical presentation, while single disease entities can produce different clinical presentations.

Among the numerous highlights of the book are chapters on pathology by Mackenzie, on genetics by Gasser, and by Aarsland et al on neuropsychiatric manifestations. The latter provides a comprehensive and valuable reference tool on assessment, diagnosis and treatment. There is an excellent chapter on eye movement abnormalities by Leigh & Zee, although this might have been enhanced by more video clips, and there are some useful audio clips in the chapter on speech abnormalities.

The more general introductory chapters (which also include a useful review on animal models of tau deposition, including suggestions for future potential therapeutic avenues) are followed by entries devoted to specific clinical syndromes. Outstanding among these are the chapters on PSP by Litvan, and on Dementia with Lewy Bodies by Burn – this brings some sanity to the 'tangled' (or not) web of confusion surrounding attempts to differentiate DLB from Parkinson Disease with Dementia. The review of familial atypical parkinsonian disorders ranging from uncommon to rare by Tsuboi et al is similarly excellent and there are useful reviews on multiple system atrophy and corticobasal degeneration. The non-degenerative atypical parkinsonian disorders are reviewed by Thomas & Jankovic, but these authors unfortunately do not address the differentiation of vascular parkinsonism from primary progressive freezing of gait.

Diagnostic studies are addressed extensively, including an excellent chapter on CT and MRI by Savoiardo & Grisoli – there is unfortunately no discussion of magnetization transfer measures, which have recently been demonstrated to differentiate atypical disorders from PD. The chapter on PET and SPECT imaging is useful, although it does not explicitly discuss the potential use of cardiac imaging with [^{18}F]fluorodopamine or [^{123}I]MIBG to distinguish Parkinson's with autonomic failure from multiple system atrophy (this is however addressed in the chapter on MSA).

Encarnacion & Chase provide a sobering reminder that we have a long way to go in terms of treating these conditions. The tempered pessimism is partially offset by a chapter, unusual in a book of this sort, on the potential role of rehabilitation.

There are some negatives to this book. As is generally the case for multi-authored collections, the quality of the chapters is variable, and there is a certain degree of overlap, particularly among chapters on neuropathology, neuroimaging and cognitive function. There was also apparently a meaningful lag between chapter submission and publication of the book – I could find only one reference from 2004. Thus, the contributions predate the pathological description (to say nothing of genetic studies) of LRRK2 parkinsonism. These are comparatively minor complaints. While most readers will probably not choose to read the book from cover to cover, there is something here for most people interested in these disorders, and the book represents a valuable resource that is probably unmatched by other currently available literature.

A. Jon Stoessl
Vancouver, British Columbia