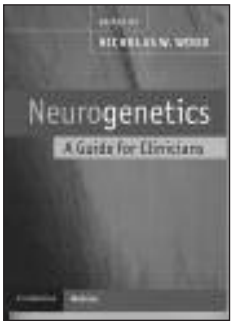
Neurogenetics: A guide for Clinicians. 2012. Edited by Nicholas W. Wood. Published by Cambridge University Press. 241 pages. C$70.00 approx.

Rated ☆☆☆

Neurogenetics: A Guide for Clinicians gives a broad overview of clinicogenetic advances in prevalent neurologic and neurodegenerative diseases. The book starts with a brief introduction about the human genome project, a summary of terminology (Box 1) and some useful websites. However, in "Box 1 Decoding the jargon" the definitions were poor and consequently misleading e.g. Mutation – a change in the DNA sequence to the reference state (usually some ancestral sequence: 'to' should read 'from'. Haplotype – a combination of alleles found tightly associated with one another: 'found tightly associated 'should read 'adjacent/physically located on the same chromosome and inherited together'. Translation – the process of building a specific sequence of DNA based upon the mRNA message. This is performed by ribosomes: 'DNA' should read 'protein'. These errors/oversights were troublesome. While the major chapters dedicated to specific disorders e.g. Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, Parkinsonism, Prion disease etc., were expertly written and factually correct (at the time of writing) much of the material was historical rather than contemporary e.g. the Alzheimer chapter dates to July 1997, the Parkinsonism chapter was probably from the same time, certainly prior to 2009 etc. With the advent of next-generation sequencing in 2008 a great deal of progress has been made in neurogenetics. To keep updated is a challenge for the specialist and undoubtedly for publishers. In conclusion, if you are looking for historical/introductory summary of developments in neurogenetics, and largely between 1980-2007, this is an easily-digestible, succinct read that I would recommend.



Matt Farrer
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Comprehensive Board Review in Neurology. Second Edition. 2013. Edited by Mark K. Borsody. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 365 pages. C$90.00 approx.

Rated ☆☆☆½

One of the most difficult tasks graduating neurology residents face in preparation for their Royal College Examinations is to effectively and efficiently organize themselves to ensure that their studying is complete. The Comprehensive Board Review in Neurology, Second Edition, edited by Mark K. Borsody MD, PhD with the assistance of multiple contributors, provides a concise yet organized approach to guide one's studying for the examination.

The text is divided into 13 chapters and includes multiple colour diagrams, images and charts helpful to understand and memorize key concepts. The first and largest chapter is dedicated to a detailed discussion of neuroanatomy and syndromes resulting from focal lesions throughout the neuro-axis. A key strength of this section is the constant cross-referencing using 'concept' boxes to enable the learner to make key connections between neuroanatomy and clinical presentation. The remainder of the book is divided upon clinicopathologic entities: vascular disorders, epilepsy, demyelinating diseases, headache, behavioural neurology and psychiatry, movement disorders, neuromuscular diseases, infections, developmental diseases and lastly systemic diseases affecting the nervous system

It is important to note that the focus of the book appears to be towards residents preparing for the Resident In-Service Training Examinations (RITE) and the American Board of Neurology and Psychiatry examinations. As such, a proportion of the chapter on behavioural neurology is dedicated to primary psychiatric disorders and the Appendix contains a list of 'tight associations' which may enable easy recognition on the above listed multiple-choice examinations. Although comprehensive, readers seeking detailed information regarding physiology, clinical criteria, key clinical trials, new pharmacotherapies and diseases affecting specific populations (such as women with epilepsy) will need to use additional sources.

Positive features of the book include its reader-friendly presentation, excellent illustrations and multiple colour photographs. In each section, disease entities are addressed in a similar pattern (pathophysiology, symptoms, diagnostic testing, treatment and prognosis) providing constant organization and enabling easy reading. The neuro-oncology and neuromuscular chapters are quite thorough and supplemented by multiple colour pathologic and histologic photographs. 'Concept boxes' are used effectively throughout the book to highlight key clinical concepts and also remind readers of important associations between diseases.

Overall, the *Comprehensive Board Review in Neurology, Second Edition* serves as a good foundation which residents can build upon while studying for their examinations. All subspecialties and their associated diseases have been addressed and thus by using the text as an outline, residents have a comprehensive approach for their learning. However, it is important to note that the Board Review serves predominately as a guide and that learners must supplement the material with relevant articles and more detailed texts.

Nailyn Rasool (PGY5)
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada