in 11 chapters. Each author is well known but the topics and true intent of the book are a bit mysterious.

An initial chapter by Riikonen places West Syndrome in the proposed International League Against Epilepsy 2001 classification and attempts to generate hypotheses about the pathophysiology. Avanzini correctly notes that "more than a century and half after the unsurpassed description of William West on his own son, the intimate nature of IS remains elusive". Guerrini illustrates a number of cases that run counter to our usual concepts of West Syndrome such as an 8-year-old boy with asymmetric late onset spasms and normal cognitive development. Bernardina emphasizes 80 personal cases to discuss interictal EEG patterns and suggests that hypsarrhythmia is a form of non-convulsive status while Vigevano shows some elegant polygraphic studies of ictal EEG in spasms. Gobbi briefly reviews non-epileptic mimics and other epileptic syndromes that have spasms. A long, detailed chapter by Atkinson reviews "New paediatric behavioural and electrophysiological tests of brain function for vision and attention to predict cognitive and neurological outcomes"; however, there is no real data about West syndrome. Developmental features of West Syndrome are discussed by Deonna who focuses on a careful analysis of 12 cases. This theme is also discussed by Guzzetta. Chugani outlines the use of PET in the surgical treatment for West Syndrome and Coppola discusses thoroughly the medical treatment but does not dwell on methodological issues.

The book would have benefited from more editing. Nearly all chapters define West syndrome but not always in the same way. There is an uneven use of the terms cryptogenic and idiopathic. In most places WS means West Syndrome but in one chapter it suddenly becomes Williams Syndrome. Many illustrations are complex and hard to follow. There are frequent references to the Delphi definitions of Lux et al – it is unfortunate that he did not participate in the book because his studies have been so well constructed.

The "hot points" are difficult to ferret out. For example, I found the comments about a long delay before cognitive recovery in some patients with West Syndrome particularly interesting. The concept that idiopathic spasms typically have no focal features is of interest, although contradicted in several chapters. There is no debate or discussion between the chapters although knowing the authors guarantees that there was much argument.

Who should read this book? I doubt it would be of much value to those seeking an introduction to West Syndrome. Experts in the subject will not find much new. Those seeking guidance in treatment choices will not be helped. A few pediatric epileptologists who are searching for exceptions and peculiar aspects of West Syndrome may benefit.

We need large co-operative study groups to make progress in this devastating but rare disorder. This book illustrates this need.

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THE CLINICAL NEUROPHYSIOLOGY PRIMER. 2007. Edited by Andrew S. Blum, Seward B. Rutkove. Published by Humana Press. 526 pages. Price C$105.

The Clinical Neurophysiology Primer is just that, a primer for Electroencephalography (EEG), Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS), Electromyography (EMG), Polysomnography (PSG), and Evoked Potentials (EP). The only method for covering all of these topics in one volume is a primer, as to attempt to cover all of these topics in any other method would be an injustice.

This book starts with a chapter on basic electronics, valuable for trainees in EEG and perhaps EMG as well. Each chapter has a nice addition of review questions and answers at the end, perfect for studying for more general examinations. There are well constructed figures throughout the primer, especially in the chapter for the cortical basis of the EEG. It is confusing for some chapters to cover technological features of both EEG and EMG, but again, this is to be thought of as a summary. Again, the short duration of a number of chapters precludes more examples of EEG or NCS waveforms to be demonstrated. Although most epileptic disorders are covered, there again are deficiencies. There is also no section on critical care for either of EEG, EMG, or surgical considerations in EP. For EMG sections, there was room for additional figures for anatomical or electrophysiological considerations, such as diagrams demonstrating Martin-Gruber anastomoses or the anatomy of the median and ulnar nerves. The plexopathy chapter is particularly short for a difficult topic. Also, a critical portion of NCS is the anatomical considerations in stimulation of the peripheral nerve, and this was not covered. Some strong points in the book are excellent chapters on transmission at the neuromuscular junction, sleep and PSG, and the scientific basis of EEG. Overall, the chapters vary in their success.

As a primer, this book is adequate for residents of Neurology and Neurosurgery not planning to perform EEG, EMG or EPs. There are nice additions on sleep and PSG which also complement the other portions of the book well. For those planning to perform certification examinations for these electrophysiological assessments, I would not recommend this text, and instead suggest more focussed and specialized textbooks within the field of interest.

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CANADIAN NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES FEDERATION
FÉDÉRATION DES SCIENCES NEUROLOGIQUES DU CANADA

43rd Annual Congress of the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation PROGRAM *(subject to change)*

Monday, June 16, 2008

11:00-12:00	CNSF Audit Committee Meeting
11:00-12:00	CNSF Committee Meeting - Governance
12:30-15:30	CNSF Committee Meeting - Planning & Reporting
15:30-16:30	NSFC Board Meeting
16:30-17:30	CNSF Board Meeting
17:30-18:30	CACN Council Meeting
17:30-19:00	CAN/CNSF 2010 Meeting

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

07:00-07:45	Resident's Breakfast
08:30-17:00	**Neurobiology Review Course**
08:30-17:00	**ALS**
08:30-17:00	**Child Neurology Day**
09:00-11:00	CNSF Professional Development Committee Meeting
10:00-12:00	CNSF Scientific Program Committee Meeting
12:00-13:00	Lunch
12:00-13:00	CSCN EMG Section Committee Meeting
12:00-13:30	Neurology Residents Meeting
12:30-16:30	CNS Education & Manpower, Royal College Specialty Committee (not confirmed)
13:00-14:00	CSCN EEG Section Committee Meeting
13:00-14:00	Journal Editorial Board Meeting
14:00-15:00	Journal Publications Committee Meeting
16:30-18:00	CSCN Council Meeting
16:30-18:00	CNSS Council Meeting
16:30-17:30	Neurosurgery Residents Business Meeting
17:00-18:00	CACN AGM
18:00-20:00	Neuromuscular SIG Meeting
18:00-20:00	**Epilepsy Video Session**
18:00-20:00	**Movement Disorders Course**

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

07:30-08:30	Canadian League Against Epilepsy - AGM
07:30-08:30	AETC Meeting
08:30-10:30	**Grand Opening Plenary - Scientific and Technical Advances in the Clinical Neurosciences**
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-12:15	**Chair's Select Plenary Presentations**
12:30-14:00	**Stroke Satellite (Boehringer Ingelheim)** ***Co-developed***
12:30-14:00	**Neuropathic Pain Satellite (Pfizer Canada)** ***Co-developed***
14:00-17:30	**Cerebrovascular Surgery Course**
14:00-17:30	**Spine Course**
14:00-17:30	**Neuroradiology Course**
14:00-17:30	**Stroke Course**
14:00-17:30	**Epilepsy Course**
14:00-17:30	**Neurocritical Care Course**
17:30+++	Exhibitors Reception

Thursday, June 19, 2008

07:00-08:30	Canadian Board of Registration of EEG Technologists Meeting
07:30-08:30	CNSF Affiliate Societies Meeting
07:30-08:30	CNS Council Meeting
08:30-10:00	**Plenary-CNS, CACN & CSCN Neurology**
08:30-10:00	**Plenary-CNSS Neurosurgery**
10:00-10:15	Break
10:15-12:30	**Platform Sessions (7 simultaneous)**
12:00-13:00	Canadian Neuromuscular Group Meeting
12:30-13:30	Canadian Neurocritical Care Group
12:30-13:30	Canadian Neurological Society Foundation Board Meeting
12:30-14:00	Lunch / Exhibit Viewing / Digital Poster Tours
14:00-16:30	**Platform Sessions (7 simultaneous)**
16:30-17:30	Exhibit and Digital Poster Viewing
17:00-18:00	Canadian Neurological Society AGM
17:30-19:00	Presidents' Reception

Friday, June 20, 2008

07:30-08:30	CSCN AGM
07:30-08:30	CNSS AGM
08:30-09:30	**Distinguished Guest Lecture**
09:30-10:30	Canadian Brain & Nerve Health Coalition
10:00-11:30	Canadian Pediatric Neuromuscular Research Group
09:50-10:15	Break/Exhibit and Digital Poster Viewing
10:15-12:00	**Grand Rounds**
12:00-13:30	Lunch / Exhibit Viewing / Digital Poster Tours
12:00-13:00	Canadian Neuromuscular Group Meeting
12:00-13:15	Canadian Headache Society AGM
12:00-13:30	Royal College Committee Neurosurgery (not confirmed)
13:30-17:00	**Headache Course**
13:30-17:00	**What's New in Neurosurgery? Course**
13:30-17:00	**EEG Course**
13:30-17:00	**Medical Legal Symposium**
13:30-17:00	**Dementia Course**
13:30-17:00	**What's New in Neurology? Course**
13:30-17:00	**Neuromuscular Course**
17:00-18:00	CNSF Board Meeting
17:00-22:00	Canadian Headache Society Guidelines Meeting

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0317167100117068 Published online by Cambridge University Press