NEUROLOGICAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN RETROVIRUSES. Volume 1, Number 1, 1992. Edited by P. Rudge. Published by Bailliere Tindall. 262 pages. $36 Cdn.

This is the first volume in the Bailliere's series on Clinical Neurology, International Practice and Research, dealing with Neurological Aspects of Human Retroviruses. Although it is a multi-authored book, the editing by Dr. P. Rudge has produced a uniform style reminiscent of extremely well written single authored texts. The topic of this first volume is of great importance to anyone involved in the care and study of patients with neurological disorders.

This volume considers all aspects of retrovirus infections beginning with classification, molecular biology, and immunology, before proceeding onto an important chapter on neurological aspects of lentevirus infections in animals. A detailed discussion of the neurological aspects of human HTLV-1 follows, alsong with an overview of HIV-1 and HIV-2 diseases. Opportunistic CNS infections, cognitive dysfunction and dementia are covered, along with clinical features of other neurological disorders in HIV-1 infection. An excellent chapter on the neuropathology of these disorders, and another on therapeutic management of retroviral disorders conclude the volume.

The number of neurological disorders associated with human retrovirus infections is large, and many aspects of the subjects covered are still in the descriptive phase, as were many of the classical neurological disorders in the past. This volume not only covers the above subjects in a readable fashion, but does point out where the main research efforts have been in the medical understanding of retrovirus infections in humans and animals, and indicates what questions remain to be answered, and the directions of basic and clinical research in this area in the future.

What makes this volume successful is the emphasis on basic science knowledge and research discussed in the context of clinical practice. This reviewer had the impression that although a lot of the information in the book was very basic and detailed it was so concisely presented that it only enhanced the clinical data provided.

This volume would be useful to anyone seeking comprehensive knowledge of this subject. Most clinical neuroscience groups with training programs would value the addition of this volume; individual practitioners and researchers would find it to be more than a reference. The references are extensive, impressive, and recent for a publication of this nature.

If this first volume is any indication of the quality of future publications in this series, then the longevity of the series is guaranteed. Backed by an internationally respected editorial board, this volume is highly recommended.

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ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: ADVANCES IN CLINICAL BASIC RESEARCH. 1993. Edited by B. Corain, K. Iqbal, M. Nicolini, B. Winblad, H. Wisniewski, P. Zatta. Published by John Wiley & Sons Canada Ltd. 1164 pages. $264 Cdn.

This volume is composed of selected papers from a symposium from the Third International Conference in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders held in Padova, Italy July 12-17, 1992. The volume deals with diagnosis, risk factors and epidemiology of Alzheimer's disease, structural pathology, mechanisms of cell death and amyloid. The transmissible dementias and cellular namomal models are also included as well as a section on therapeutics.

The volume is very representative of the status of research in Alzheimer's disease in July of 1992. This is a very rapidly progressing field and difficult for the non specialist to keep abreast of the rapid advances that are being made in this area. Therefore, the volume serves a very useful function in collecting diverse research results from laboratories across the world.

Generally, the papers are clearly written and concise. The editors have prepared a well balanced overview of the field and allow the serious student of this condition to come abreast of many exciting advances.

It is clear that despite new understanding in the genetic and genetic contribution to Alzheimer's disease that no laboratory model yet is capable of reproducing Alzheimer's disease and therefore, both etiology and the pathogenesis of this condition will require extensive further investigation before it is satisfactorily understood.

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