

## Book Reviews

### **Orthopedics in Primary Care, 3rd edition, 1999**

Edited by Gerald Steinberg, Carlton Akins and Daniel Baran. Publishers: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 227 East Washington Square, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3780. Price: \$69.95 ISBN: 0-683-30258-2.

This is the third edition of this comprehensive textbook on the primary care of the musculoskeletal system. *Orthopedics in Primary Care* was intended as a reference for primary care physicians in the office or emergency room to help in dealing with musculoskeletal problems. The chapters were contributed by subspecialists in the appropriate fields and the book is organized by anatomic regions.

The textbook effectively meets its goals. It is clear, concise, well written and illustrated. Although not comprehensive, it provides more than adequate description and treatment options for most musculoskeletal conditions. It is well indexed, with a short but adequate reference list.

*Orthopedics in Primary Care* provides an up-to-date reference for most problems of the musculoskeletal system. It would be an invaluable addition to most primary care offices and emergency rooms. It should be essential reading for anyone wishing to embark on a primary practice or emergency room residency program.

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### **Recent Advances in Human Neurophysiology**

Excerpta Medica. International Congress Series 1162, 1998.

Edited by K. Isao Hashimoto and R. Kakigi. Available from Elsevier Science BV, P.O. Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands, or from Elsevier Science Inc., P.O. Box 945, Madison Square Station, New York, NY 10160-0757, USA. Price: US\$324.50. ISBN: 0-444-82969-5.

This book, *Recent Advances in Human Neurophysiology*, presents the proceedings of the 6th International Evoked Potentials Symposium held in Okazaki, Japan, from 21-25 March 1998. Its contributors were mainly from the host country, the term "international" mostly reflecting the

scientific domain within which the international society of neuro-research is established.

The content of the book covers most of the traditional aspects of human neurophysiology studied by the manifold evoked potential techniques of today. The reports, however, are not limited to the field of evoked responses, although both basic and clinical aspects of these have been presented, and are well separated in the impressive list of contents, to the benefit of the reader. *Recent Advances in Human Neurophysiology* also covers subjects such as neuro-monitoring, magnetoencephalography (MEG), magnetic stimulation and long-loop reflexes.

A separate section of the book deals with what is increasingly becoming the latest trend, namely, multi- and cross-modal evoked responses, the studies being designed to analyze complex integrative input functions of certain neurons. Another section of the book figures on integrative studies, where different event-related potentials are analyzed in combination with certain imaging techniques, such as PET, CT, MRI, fMRI, and MEG. In particular, the versatile use of MEG, representing the latest neuro-physiological technique, is demonstrated in studies of both basic science character and in clinical testing, e.g., voltage-clamp studies of membrane properties in the guinea pig, recording of peripheral nerve action fields, as well as evoked magnetic fields of the brain, localization of epileptic discharges and analysis of the generators of human  $\alpha$ -activity.

As a comprehensive summary of today's research in human neurophysiology, with a special emphasis on the development in the Eastern part of the world, the book is recommended not only for the workers in the field, but for anyone with a keen interest in the outcome of the merging clinical and basic neuroscience techniques.

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### **Dynamic Cells: Dynamic Cell Biology of the 21st Century**

Excerpta Medica. International Congress Series 1166, 1997.

Edited by S. Hagiyaishi, T. Kachi and M. Wakui. Available from Elsevier Science BV, P.O. Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands, or from Elsevier Science Inc., P.O. Box 945, Madison Square Station, New York, NY 10160-0757, USA. Price: US\$123.50. ISBN: 0-444-50001-4.

This book contains a series of lectures given at the 1st Hirosaki International Forum of Medical Science, in celebration of the Hirosaki Medical School's 50th anniversary. The editors and organizers wanted to put special emphasis on basic cell biology and molecular cell biology, as they consider this field in medicine to be of the utmost importance. Fifteen articles cover areas of nerve cell signalling, neurosecretory cells and comparisons with the adrenal medulla, osteoblast morphology and beta-cells in the pancreas.

The title of the book could have been more precise, because this is not an easy-to-read book which will give students an introduction to important areas in cell biology. Rather, the book is for the advanced researcher especially interested in areas of neuronal signalling. For those researchers, many chapters contain detailed information about the high degree of complexity in regulation of neuropeptides, kinesin superfamily proteins and their importance for transportation within the neuronal cell, the resemblance between pineal photoreceptors and retinal photoreceptors, and also has an elegant review of the complex mechanisms regulating melatonin synthesis. Thus this book is for the cell biologist with an interest in neurophysiology, and provides a nice summary of the field with up-to-date references. However, as is often the case with symposia books, its drawback is the extreme speed with which the field of cell biology is evolving. It is likely that within a few years, this will be just another book gathering dust on the shelf in the laboratory, as it may be overtaken by events in the field of cell biology.

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### **Ocular Therapeutics Handbook**

Edited by Bruce E. Onofrey, Leonid Skorin and Nicky R. Holdeman. Publishers: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 227 East Washington Square, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3780. Price: \$57.50 ISBN: 0-397-51392-5.

The *Ocular Therapeutics Handbook* deals with the pathophysiology and natural history of eye diseases. The book lists the ophthalmologic signs, symptoms, prognosis and laboratory tests of eye diseases and outlines eye treatment in a simple format.

The major strength of this book lies in its quick reference section. It includes a useful section on abbreviations and conversion charts. At 616 pages and 18 chapters, it serves as simplified reference material rather than a manual. The text is written in a simple style rather than as a mere compilation of facts, a factor which shows the expertise of the authors.

The *Ocular Therapeutics Handbook* would be beneficial to optometry residents and medical students, helping to put the basic sciences into perspective with a strong practical foundation. In many ways, the book is a well-organized manual for optometrists, nurses and general practitioners. It would provide rapid access information to primary care physicians. It would not serve the purpose for ophthalmologists, except maybe as a snapshot approach and an easy-to-use reference, as the contributors were mostly optometrists.

Numerous algorithms and an easy-to-read outline format cover most eye disorders, including bacterial, viral and fungal immune diseases, lacrimal disorders, ocular trauma and emergencies, glaucoma, retinal and neurological disease. The *Ocular Therapeutics Handbook* lists the common eye disorders and determines the appropriate treatment. It is a book to be recommended, especially for optometrists.

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