

The section on antineoplastic chemotherapy includes a new chapter dealing with the discipline of immunopharmacology, which reviews current approaches to enhance or suppress immune responses by means of chemical or biological mediators. The last section entitled Special Topics of Pharmacology comprises 14 well-rounded chapters including important reviews of both perinatal and geriatric pharmacology.

Principles of Medical Pharmacology can be highly recommended for clinical and basic neuroscientists as well as medical, nursing and other health science students. Basic pharmacological principles, pharmacokinetics, drug actions and interactions are all clearly summarized. Principles of Medical Pharmacology, though it does not claim to be an exhaustive reference book, is quite comprehensive and is a pleasure to read.

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**INTERFERON THERAPY OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS.** 1997. Edited by Anthony T. Reeder. Published by Marcel Dekker, Inc. 549 pages. \$C254.00

This book serves as an excellent reference for basic scientists and neurologists interested in multiple sclerosis. The early chapters describing the molecular biology, pharmacokinetics, pathogenetic role, immunologic mechanisms and neuropsychological effects are written by experts and will be of value to basic scientists and MS neurologists but will be understood in only a very superficial way by general physicians and health care practitioners.

The later chapters describing the clinical effects of the interferons, recent clinical trials, adverse effects, new MRI techniques and the design of future clinical trials will have a broader appeal, not only to neurologists but to anyone working with MS patients.

The final two chapters describing the measurement, incidence and clinical significance of neutralizing antibodies emphasize the present uncertainty of their clinical significance but reinforce the importance of continuing to monitor them in future trials.

In summary, this book is an excellent reference for anyone interested in the basic mechanisms of action of the interferons and the clinical chapters provide a clear account of their role in the current management of patients with multiple sclerosis.

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**AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS.** 1997. By Hiroshi Mitsumoto, David A. Chad, Erik P. Piore. Published by F.A. Davis Company. 481 pages. \$C182.00.

This book covers the topic of ALS in a comprehensive manner from clinical presentation, diagnosis and management to the current state of ALS research. The authors are extremely thorough in their approach. At times the thoroughness tends to highlight the inadequacies of our current knowledge. This is most obvious in the discussion concerning pathogenesis. It also highlights the tremendous advances in all aspects of our approach to this devastating disease.

The initial 10 chapters offer an excellent review of the clinical presentations, differential diagnosis, investigations and prognosis in ALS. Chapters 11 through 17 cover the current "state of the art" in our understanding of the causes of this disease. As well, many of the current research models are reviewed and helpfully point out the strengths and weaknesses of each. This may be very helpful to clinicians when reviewing results of basic research and interpreting those results. The final 9 chapters cover treatment and management issues including medications, nutrition, ventilation, and physical aids. Ethical issues such as withdrawal of treatment and end of life issues are skilfully addressed.

This book is recommended for both clinicians and researchers who wish to stay abreast of the advances in this field. Scientists in the field who wish to grasp the clinical complexities of this disease will also find it useful. An excellent neuromuscular resource book.

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