# Books Received

**ALLOSTASIS, HOMEOSTASIS AND THE COST OF PHYSIOLOGICAL ADAPTATION.** 2004. Edited by Jay Schulkin. Published by Cambridge University Press. 372 pages C$140.00 approx.

**ASPHASIA AND RELATED NEUROGENIC LANGUAGE DISORDERS.** 2005. By Leonard L. Lapointe. Published by Thieme. 296 pages C$90.00 approx.

**BEYOND NATURE-NURTURE.** 2005. Edited by Michael Tomasello, Dan Isaac Slobin. Published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc. 315 pages C$90.00 approx.

**CEREBRAL VASOSPASM: ADVANCES IN RESEARCH AND TREATMENT.** 2005. By R. Loch Macdonald. Published by Thieme. 333 pages C$200.00 approx.

**NEUROSURGERY BOARD REVIEW. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT - SECOND EDITION.** 2005. By Cargill H. Alleyne Jr., Jonathan Stuart Citow. Published by Thieme. 272 pages C$70.00 approx.

**NEUROTRAUMA: EVIDENCE-BASED ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS.** 2005. By Alex B. Valadka, Brian T. Andrews. Published by Thieme. 312 pages C$140.00 approx.

**PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF THE SPINE.** 2005. By Todd J. Albert, Alexander R. Vaccaro. Published by Thieme. 144 pages C$90.00 approx.

**PLASTIC TECHNIQUES IN NEUROSURGERY. 2ND EDITION.** 2004. By James Tait Goodrich, David A. Staffenberg. Published by Thieme New York. 164 pages C$230.00 approx.

**PRINCIPLES OF BRAIN EVOLUTION.** 2005. By Georg F. Striedter. Published by Sinauer Associates, Inc. 436 pages C$90.00 approx.

**PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY DRUGS, THE BRAIN, AND BEHAVIOR.** 2005. By Jerrold S. Meyer, Linda F. Quenzer. Published by Sinauer Associates, Inc. 555 pages C$100.00 approx.

**REFLEX EPILEPSIES: PROGESS IN UNDERSTANDING.** 2004. By Peter Wolf, Yushi Inoue, Benjamin Zifkin. Published by John Libbey Eurotext Limited. 200 pages C$125.00 approx.

**THE CLINICAL MANAGEMENT OF CRANIOSYNOSTOSIS.** 2004. Edited by Richard Hayward, Barry Jones, David Dunaway, Robert Evans. Published by Cambridge University Press. 438 pages C$180.00 approx.

# Book Reviews

**NEUROLOGY SURVIVAL GUIDE.** 2003. Edited by Dave A. Rengachary, Published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 366 Pages. C$40 approx.

The Neurology Survival Guide is one book in the series of the Washington Manual Survival Guides. The book is intended to be a ready pocket reference for residents, with particular attention paid toward urgent inpatient issues. Topics are well-outlined and include useful tables and references not seen in other similar books. Although, the text could go further to explain background information that would be helpful for new or off service residents. Overall, this is a valuable aid for neurology residents throughout their training.

Balancing a compact style of writing and ease of use are always a challenge for condensed reference books. The format of this text follows an efficient use of bold headlines and bullet points. This style allows the reader to quickly skim the text as seen in the comprehensive but compact list of central nervous system infections. Unique topics are also covered such as the chapter dedicated to stroke trials. This makes the reference more valuable to beginning and senior neurology residents who have a background understanding.

Residents or clerks, with little neurological background, may find similar pocket books easier to use. Some of the basic issues, like physical exam, are not reviewed as completely as more introductory pocket guides. This type of reader is helped by the use of tables for specific differentials and advisory comments under such titles as "clues" and "red flags." These readers may need other texts to help supplement this information or explain some of the detail captured in the text.

The authors must make many choices about what not to include in a book designed to fit in your coat pocket. The authors of this book rightly chose to focus on inpatient issues that might need to be urgently managed by a resident in the middle of the night. To increase the efficiency of searching text, the editor has structured the chapters by combining clinical presentations (i.e. Low Back Pain), clinical subspecialties, and supportive fields (i.e. Neuroimaging). This last addition is unique for such books and provides an excellent and concise review of introductory issues in neuroimaging. To further aid the reader, an extensive appendix follows and includes useful calculations, glossary, and web references. The inclusion of the McDonald Criteria for MS is indicative of the extensive information found within the book. The index is well-written and cross-referenced.

The authors must be commended for their completeness in outlining management plan templates. Similar books often provide things to consider without clearly documenting steps, doses, and treatment goals. Thankfully, this book does an excellent job at nailing down specifics and including target values for diagnostic tests.

A reference this size cannot be all things to all readers. It is best suited for neurology residents, both junior and senior, and those clerks or off service residents with a good foundation in neurology

who need a more advanced reference while rotating through the neurology inpatient service.

*Martin SuttonBrown*
*Calgary, Alberta*

**FUNCTIONAL NEUROANATOMY. AN INTERACTIVE TEXT AND MANUAL.** 2004. By Jeffrey T. Joseph, David L. Cardozo. Published by John Wiley & Sons. 575 pages. C$90 approx.

Most neurologists who are responsible for teaching in medical school are frustrated by the overwhelming ignorance of neuroanatomy demonstrated by the average student. The fact is that the typical first year neuroanatomy course is terrible. If ignorance were the only problem it would be bad enough, but the majority of students develop what amounts to a phobia which prevents them from enjoying this fascinating subject or ever feeling comfortable in dealing with neurological problems.

My first reaction to this text was that it would never fly. It is just too heavy. However, when I began to read it, I felt a strange sensation. Here was a beginning text which I, like every neurologist, have daydreamed of writing, an approach to anatomy in which the relevance of every fact is immediately illustrated by a clinical case. Gone are the endless lists of connections between meaningless nuclei, presented for brute memorisation without any hint of what might be important or useful. Anatomy, physiology, and clinical neurology are seamlessly and beautifully integrated. Anatomical diagrams and MRIs are matched throughout. The text is clear and sparkling. I found myself reading with pleasure tempered by envy – I wish I had written it.

I hope that this book will be widely adopted. I am sure that applications to our residency programs would soar.

*Jeff Donat*
*Saskatoon, Saskachewan*

**AICARDI'S EPILEPSY IN CHILDREN, THIRD EDITION.** 2004. By Alexis Arzimanoglou, Renzo Guerrini, Jean Aicardi. Published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 487 pages. C$175 approx.

The extraordinary Professor Aicardi is joined by two younger rising stars (Renzo Guerrini and Alexis Arzimanoglou) in the most recent, third edition of Aicardi's Epilepsy in Children. The authors all work from tertiary European epilepsy centers and the book is not for beginners – it is detailed and exhaustively referenced (>4000 citations). The size of this literature is almost beyond imagination.

The book is thoughtfully organized. The first section is made up of two chapters that deal in a general way with the definition of epilepsy, seizure types and epilepsy syndromes. The definition of epilepsy is pointed out to be particularly problematic. The second section (nine chapters) addresses the major types of seizures and the syndromes that are associated with these seizures. This approach allows the reader to begin with patients as they present – with seizures first and only later specific syndrome diagnoses. The third section (nine chapters) discusses special situations related to features such as age of onset, status epilepticus or genetics. A final section (five chapters) addresses issues of diagnosis, prognosis, medical and surgical treatment.

If you are an expert in epilepsy, I doubt that you will read the book from cover to cover – the detail is often overwhelming. Thankfully, the index is excellent. The strength of the book is the detail of seizure and syndrome description, but this is hard slogging. If you need to know the several types of tonic seizures that occur in Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, this is where you will find them clearly described. In some sections there is a tendency to overemphasize exceptions and sometimes fail to clearly identify the core features of a syndrome that are seen in the majority of cases. Many epileptic syndromes are not very precisely defined (not the fault of these authors!) and therefore, only a sophisticated reader will appreciate some of the nuances that the authors emphasize. However, the authors make it very clear when they are offering their own personal opinions about various issues.

In my opinion, the book is a bit weak in describing studies where the method of case ascertainment is critical, where complex statistics are important or where concepts of risk abound. Relative risk, odds ratio and meta-analysis are infrequently used terms. There is a somewhat negative attitude expressed about population-based research, largely based on concerns about the accuracy of seizure and syndrome diagnosis. You would never guess that there is a literature which indicates that experts often disagree about nearly every aspect of childhood epilepsy. In the section on neonatal seizures the one large, adequately powered, randomized study comparing phenobarbital with phenytoin gets less space than a single case report about the use of lamotrigine. The section on first febrile seizures gives little indication of the strength of each risk factor and the additive effect of independent risk factors. The section on social outcome does not discuss comparative studies with other chronic diseases. The section on mortality fails to emphasize the effect of co-morbidity and barely touches on suicide which is considerably more common than SUDEP.

However, overall, there is no doubt about the comprehensive and authoritative nature of the book. It will be an invaluable reference text for neurologists who treat a substantial number of children with epilepsy. Residents and fellows who want to read around their cases will find the book rewarding. Just don't start at page one and try to read all the way through!

*Peter Camfield*
*Halifax, Nova Scotia*

**MIGRAINE IN WOMEN.** 2004. Edited by Elizabeth Loder and Dawn A.Marcus. Published by BC Decker Inc. 196 pages. C$150 approx.

The editors have assembled an authoritative collection of chapters which are dedicated to selected aspects of migraine in women. An appropriate division of science and practical care in a refreshing blend of medical, psychological and social science is provided. The authors have maintained a consistent style, commencing each chapter with a case to demonstrate clinical applications of the content of each chapter. The authors often refer back to the case to provide additional clinical correlation. Each chapter has been preceded by a list of "Key Chapter Points" which focuses the prominent features of the chapter. A compact disc (CD) is included with the book that provides the opportunity to access this volume from your laptop or desktop, with complete text and diagrams (32.2 MB).

The issues specific to women have been effectively highlighted in each chapter. A broad view of the science and care of migraine in