

expect most of the authors to use this in their own independent work.

The inclusion of stories from persons with PD and their family members interspersed between chapters certainly keeps one grounded. Their narratives were honest, at times uplifting, and poignant; one could feel the frustration of the daughter not allowed to stay after hours to attend to her mother following back surgery and the patient herself who commented that while her pupils are tested, no one really “sees” her.

While Parkinson Disease: A Health Policy Perspective is a good reference book for health professionals with an interest in health policy and advocacy, overall there is not enough to recommend this book to most practicing neurologists, residents or movement disorders experts.

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SUPPRESSING THE MIND. ANESTHETIC MODULATION OF MEMORY AND CONSCIOUSNESS. 2010. Edited by Anthony Hudetz, Robert Pearce. Published by Humana Press. 252 pages. C\$195 approx.

Rated ★★★★★

I know how to do my job, but don't know how my job works. This remains the anesthetist's dilemma.

Suppressing the Mind is a small text summarizing how anesthetics (perhaps) work. Originating as a workshop on brain research in 2007, it is 252 pages, and current to 2010. It bridges multiple fields in an attempt to explain how memory and consciousness are affected by general anesthetic drugs. The chapter of greatest relevance to me as a practising neuro-anesthesiologist was on anesthetic awareness. This was readable, complete and enjoyable. It contrasts with the chapter on neurochemistry of arousal state control: I might understand the transmitters in the rat brain if sentences of only 12

words did not have 30 references. This is my chief complaint: the decision to provide references within the text (written as ‘Authors, year’ instead of just end note numbers) makes the whole book less readable. This book will appeal to the graduate student in both neuroscience and neural monitoring, and to anesthesiologists seeking advanced knowledge of how our field actually works.

I remain confused by the parts of the hippocampus and the math of mean-field models. I now appreciate that it is ‘not just gaba’, and the great separation of consciousness and recall that it is expressed so clearly in my patients who receive midazolam.

How do anesthetics work? I know a little more about this complex answer, and so will those who read Suppressing the Mind.

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PITUITARY TODAY II – NEW MOLECULAR, PHYSIOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL ASPECTS. 2010. Edited by Eduardo Arzt, Marcello Bronstein, Mirtha Gutelman. Published by Karger. 218 pages. C\$185 approx.

Rated ★★★★★

This book, Volume 38 in the series *Frontiers of Hormone Research* edited by Ashley Grossman, is an interesting book in a number of ways. Firstly, the book is edited by three individuals - all of whom are from South America - two from Argentina and one from Brazil. Secondly, of the 25 chapters in the book, ten come either in whole or in part from South American centres. For those of us in North America with our, at times, very myopic view of the world, it may come as a surprise that there is indeed very high quality scholarly work being done by our neighbours to the south - which in this case does not mean The United States but rather South America.

The book is the proceedings of a satellite symposium held in Angra dos Reis, a resort town in the southern part of Rio de Janeiro state, in November 2008 following the International Society of Endocrinology meeting in Rio de Janeiro. The topics covered are various and range from the highly specific and basic science directed to the more clinical/overview type of chapter.

While this variability makes for interesting reading it is also a bit of an Achilles heel for the book because it lessens the book's appeal for the general clinician and makes it much more of a niche book. Frankly, even a neuroendocrinologist is unlikely to want to spend \$185.00 for a volume that is already two years behind the fast-paced race of basic science and is not going to be something that is particularly useful for guiding day-to-day practice.

Some of the more review-oriented chapters are excellent. I can commend the chapter *Testing Growth Hormone Deficiency in Adults* by Gabellieri et al as being an excellent review of this topic as is *Medical Therapy of Cushing's Disease: Where are we now?* by Alexandraki and Grossman. Unfortunately, the answer to the question is that we still have a ways to go before we can offer patients a long-term medical treatment for Cushing's Disease. Marcello Bronstein's chapter on *Optimizing Acromegaly Treatment* outlines three very nice approaches to the management of this difficult condition and provides a nice summary of the evidence. The author neither makes a personal recommendation as to which therapy is “best” nor does he suggest how to approach the individual patient. The clinician looking for a “how to” chapter will not find it here. The chapter on *Pituitary Carcinomas* by Colao et al is a very nice over-view of this most unusual of pituitary conditions.

The chapters are well written. They are clear, generally concise and up-to-date as of 2008. This book would be a useful addition to the library of any Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism but is unlikely to be found on the shelves of many practicing clinicians given its limited clinical utility, the time-sensitive nature of the material and its cost.

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