BOOK RECEIVED

Dementia with Lewy Bodies. Robert Perry, Ian McKeith, and Elaine Perry, eds. Cambridge University Press, 1996, 510 pp. $120.00.

Everyone I know who knows something about Lewy bodies has authored or co-authored a chapter in this book (94 total authors), so, understandably, I haven’t been able to find someone to review it. The book arose from a workshop on the Lewy body held in Newcastle, England, in 1995. It starts with a picture of Friedericich Lewy and a short biography of his life followed by 36 chapters divided into 3 sections: Clinical Issues, Pathological Issues and Treatment issues. Thirteen chapters are devoted to pathological issues and appear to adequately address the major questions one would raise on this subject. So, it should be a valuable addition to the library of the neuropathologist interested in degenerative diseases for the next few years.

MICHAEL NOEL HART, MD

BOOK REVIEW


An international group of neuroscientists has authored the fourteen chapters in this monograph devoted to laboratory techniques and protocols that identify apoptosis and molecular mechanisms involved in its pathogenesis. As befitting its inclusion in Neuromethods, the book principally addresses in vivo and in vitro apoptosis in the nervous system during development and in CNS diseases, but since the methodologies are widely applicable to all organ systems, non-neuroscientists will find it equally useful. One of the major strengths of this book is the coverage of specific techniques that outline step-by-step protocols for DNA extraction and gel electrophoresis; in situ end labeling (ISEL) of DNA fragmentation in tissue culture and tissue sections; ISEL combined with immunohistochemistry; biochemical parameters for cell death in culture systems; and fixation, processing and staining techniques for light and electron microscopy of cell death. The TUNEL procedure for ISEL is covered in several chapters; this repetition is actually extremely helpful in suggesting modifications that might be applicable in the reader’s own laboratory. In addition to the methodologies, chapters also review gene expression in apoptosis, different in vitro model systems of CNS apoptosis, and apoptosis in disease states such as Alzheimer disease and ischemia. This book provides an important addition to the library shelves of research laboratories studying apoptosis.

CAROL PETITO