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Neurobiology of Alzheimer's Disease (3rd edition)

I recall buying the first edition of this book (produced by Bios Scientific Publishers) when I was a struggling research registrar in 1996. Over 10+ years and two further editions the book has expanded (now 50% larger by pages) but many of the topics remain as before: neuropathology, genetics, APP metabolism, amyloid β -peptide and its cellular targets, tau and neurofibrillary pathology, animal models of AD (but no mention of flies), inflammation, neurotransmitters, neurotrophins. These are comprehensive accounts, heavily referenced throughout, on subjects central to the endeavour of understanding AD pathophysiology. There is a new chapter on (CSF) biomarkers, and therapy now has two chapters, one exclusively on amyloid based therapies. The chapter on clinical assessment sits somewhat uneasily within the neurobiological milieu (and neurologists may blench to read that dysphasia is "difficulty with articulation of speech", p335) and the chapter on neuroimaging has disappeared.

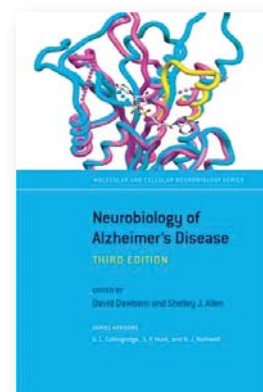
The preface points out that previous editions went to press just as significant new findings were breaking (linkage of familial AD to chromosomes 14 and 1 in 1995; characterisation of BACE in 1999), and it is possible that a similar thing has happened with this edition. Although sortilin is mentioned (p295) as a p75NTR binding part-

ner, it seems publication came too soon to include the recent excitement about a genetic association between the sortilin receptor SORL1 and AD (Rogaeva et al., *Nat Genet* 2007; 39: 168-77).

The scientific accent of the book means that a few clinical errors creep in: for example, FTDP is not "frontotemporal dementia of the Parkinson type" (p3), and the cerebellum is affected in AD (p235); there are well-described neuropathological and neurochemical changes.

Neurologists with an interest in dementia in general and AD in particular are presumably, following the 2006 NICE/SCIE guidelines, an endangered species threatened with extinction (PCTs and special health authorities apparently comprehend no role for neurologists in the management of this most quintessential of brain diseases), and so the principal market for this book will be amongst the growing numbers of neuroscientists with an interest in AD, and possibly those psychogeriatricians with more than simply a clinical interest. When one considers that the first edition cost me £65 in 1996, the current price of under £50 seems good value for money.

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Dawbarn D, Allen SJ (eds)
Published by: Oxford University Press
ISBN: 978-0-19-856661-8
Price: £49.95

Including People with Communication Disability in Stroke Research and Consultation – A Guide for Researchers and Service Providers

A concise, practical guide drawing on the authors' professional experiences of people with aphasia. Its aim is to increase inclusion in stroke research and consultation of people with communication disability. Aphasia is reported in 30% of first ever ischaemic stroke patients, whilst aphasic stroke patients tend to be older than their non-aphasic peers,¹ thus confirming aphasia to be a very common and important problem with an age-related dimension. Improving inclusivity is of course particularly topical given the current emphasis on 'user involvement' in health care and research.

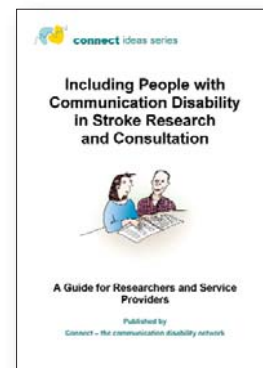
The authors are right to address the issue of communication impairment in this simple and accessible guide – although perhaps an overly simplistic style in places will not appeal to everyone. It has been published by Connect, the communication disability network (www.ukconnect.org) – a national charity based in London promoting effective services, new opportunities and a better quality of life for people living with aphasia.

The guide comprises seven short chapters, a resource list, bibliography, and a forty-nine page appendix containing extensive examples of documents considered by the authors to be accessible to people with aphasia. The guide includes an elementary introduction to communication impairment, suggestions for improving inclusivity and practical strategies for effective interviews, meetings, and dissemination of information in the context of communication impairment.

Overall a highly practical publication which can be readily and quickly absorbed – hopefully it will achieve its stated aims.

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- Engelter et al. *Epidemiology of aphasia attributable to first ischemic stroke: incidence, severity, fluency, etiology, and thrombolysis.* *Stroke* 2006;37:1397-84.



Swinburn, K
Published by: Connect – the communication disability network
ISBN: 978-0-9536042-8-9
Price: £21.99

Encephalitis - a parent's handbook

This guide to encephalitis in childhood is an extremely comprehensive, well thought out support for parents. The easy-to-read and thorough approach perfectly balances the complex scientific information necessary to make informed choices about the necessary services at the time of illness and following on into community care.

As a resource for dealing with the various sequelae and consequences of the illness, particularly with regards to potential behavioural difficulties and education, it is extremely useful for all members of an interdisciplinary team around the child.

It therefore fulfils its remit as a support tool for the child and family, but wider reading should be compulsory for all members of health, education and social teams that have dealings with children who have had encephalitis.

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Compiled by: Dowell, E. **Published by:** Encephalitis Society, 2006
www.encephalitis.info. **Price:** £10

