

## Book Reviews

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### Greenfield's Neuropathology 7th Edition

The publication of a new edition of Greenfield's, the world's definitive neuropathology reference text, is a great event for a neuropathologist and an important landmark for the whole neuroscience community. The editors, Professor Peter Lantos and Professor David Graham, are to be congratulated on this fine achievement. This is an impressively comprehensive text book with chapters covering the pathology of all types of neurological disorder. Introductory chapters deal with general principles relating to cell biology and cellular pathology of neurons and glial cells. Pathology affecting the brain itself is, on the whole, divided into chapters by the traditional headings of diagnostic category. In addition, there are specific chapters on ophthalmic pathology, the hypothalamus and pituitary gland, the spinal cord and vertebral column, peripheral nerves and diseases of muscle. The editors have carefully chosen multi-author teams for each chapter who represent the pinnacle of knowledge for their specific sections. Not only is the authorship truly global with representation from all parts of Europe, North America, and the rest of the world, but often individual chapters have co-authors who each have a slightly different perspective on the disease process, whether from the angle of neuropathology, clinical aspects, or fundamental neuroscience. Although the main perspective of the book, appropriately, is that of the classic neuropathology, this choice of authorship gives an impressively broad perspective on disease processes. I counted a total of 75 people in the list of contributors to this edition. The role of this text book is not primarily that of a practical diagnostic manual (for example, the tumour chapter does not in all cases contain sections for detailed consideration of differential diagnosis) but rather it impressively manages to provide both a very broad perspective and incredible detail concerning pathological processes affecting the nervous system. The multi-author approach leads to successful integration of fundamental neuroscience, genetics, clinical factors and neuroimaging with the neuropathology.

Who is Greenfield's Neuropathology for? Firstly, it is essential for every neuropathologist to own a copy of

Greenfield's Neuropathology. Others who could benefit immensely from this book are trainees in neuropathology, the clinical neurosciences and general pathology, clinicians managing patients with neurological disease and fundamental neuroscientists whose interests may be in pathobiology, in vitro or animal models of neurological disease.

The seventh edition of Greenfield's Neuropathology is presented as two separately bound hard-back volumes with a sewn binding and good quality paper. This is not intended as a pictorial atlas of neuropathology but the images are appropriate in number and include imaging, macroscopic brain appearances, histology and electron microscopy. The paper has a matt surface which makes it easy to get the best from the images in all lighting conditions. A CD is available for purchase at extra cost, which contains all of the images from the book. I cannot recommend this CD too highly. It is a great service to provide the images from Greenfield's Neuropathology in electronic format and I have no doubt that this feature will help to improve the quality of teaching and training in clinical neurosciences throughout the World. The benefits of this feature cannot be overstated. Perhaps it is unfortunate that the written text is not also on the CD. I would imagine that technically it would not have been difficult to add the text to the CD but perhaps there are copyright issues relating to this. It is therefore not possible to search electronically for a term in the whole text but one has to rely on traditional contents and indexing sections, which are adequate.

This new edition of Greenfield's Neuropathology is expensive in the sense that the purchase price, particularly with the CD, is a substantial sum. However, in terms of the human endeavour which it represents and its aesthetic appeal it has to be something of a bargain. With this new edition Greenfield's Neuropathology stamps its authority as the world's definitive text book for neuropathology.

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Edited by: David I Graham  
and Peter L Lantos  
Publisher: Arnold  
ISBN: 0-340-74231-3  
Price: Two volume set -  
£395.00  
Book/CD-ROM Set -  
£450.00 + VAT

### The Muscular Dystrophies

Developments in molecular biology have provided the average clinician with an overwhelming amount of knowledge about the muscular dystrophies. These conditions have provoked two inspiring decades of groundbreaking research, giving us new tools with which we can fight a vast array of other diseases. While there is an enormous amount of detail on most of the dystrophies, many of us are left with the mere remnants of our undergraduate understanding of this complex range of disorders. What has long been needed is a comprehensive yet readable account of the molecular and clinical features of the dystrophies.

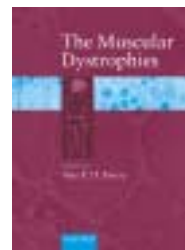
There can be few people as well suited to writing such a textbook on this group of disorders as Professor Emery: with support from a wealth of expertise gathered from around the world, he has attempted the daunting task of producing a piece of work which is accessible to the non-specialist and yet still taxing for the expert.

We should be delighted that he has achieved all of these

aims. The prose is engaging and the layout of the book is logical. Each distinct syndrome merits its own chapter outlining the molecular pathogenesis and clinical features. The book is as comfortable addressing diagnosis, and day-to-day management of the dystrophies as it is assessing wider issues. Surgical treatment of patients with dystrophies merits a chapter, as does past and future potential of gene and cell therapies. Animal models are also covered. Such an approach allows the clinician to dip into the book for relevant information, but also take a look at the wider implications and potential future treatments.

This book will make a useful addition to any hospital library or personal collection. More importantly, it will provide an authoritative and wise voice for anyone interested in the muscular dystrophies.

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Edited by: Alan EH Emery  
Publisher: Oxford  
University Press 2002  
ISBN: 0-19-263291-4  
Price: £79.50