Book Reviews

David J. Dries, Book Review Editor

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DISEASES AND INFLAMMATION

Editors: Thomas E. Lane; Monica Carson; Conni Bergmann; Tony Wyss-Coray

Bibliographic Data: Springer, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-387-73893-2, NLM: WL 351, LC: RC363, 313 pages, hard cover, $149.00.

Reviewer’s Expert Opinion:

Description: The involvement of the immune system in central nervous system diseases is highlighted in this book, which details important advances in the understanding of certain aspects of neuroinflammation. Purpose: The purpose is to provide timely and insightful reviews of certain aspects of neuroinflammation and disease, with a specific focus on glial activation, molecular signals regulating inflammation, and immune responses within the central nervous system. Since much of our knowledge in this area is derived from animal models of certain diseases, this is a worthy goal. Audience: This is clearly appropriate for clinicians and researchers who are interested in neuroinflammation in the central nervous system. It also can be a valuable research guide for students who are interested in learning some basics on this topic. The authors are highly regarded in their fields and are authorities in the field of neuroinflammation. Features: A number of chapters describe the role of various potential antigen-presenting cells in the central nervous system, such as microglia, dendritic cells. Pattern recognition receptors in disease, an active area of research, are covered. In a few chapters, the recently identified Th17 cells and their role is described. These topics definitely are unique and add to the value of this book. Some of the chapters perhaps could have provided a bit more description and detail on extensively studied areas, such as the cytokine chapter. The chapter on dendritic cells is brief and could have included more recent work on the role of T cells in central nervous system disorders. The chapter on the role of complement was very thorough, with high quality photographs and diagrams. Some figures were not of highest quality and resolution, and there is at least one typo. The chapters appear to be appropriately referenced. Assessment: Overall, this book highlights several key areas of research in neuroinflammation and central nervous system diseases. It makes worthwhile contributions to this area.

Reviewer: Christine Maria Rohowsky-Kochan, PhD (University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-NJMS)

PATHOGENIC FUNGI: INSIGHTS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Editors: Gioconda San-Blas; Richard A. Calderone

Bibliographic Data: Caister Academic Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-1-904455-32-5, 264 pages, hard cover, $310.00.

Reviewer’s Expert Opinion:

Description: This book on pathogenic fungi presents new advances that have occurred since the publication of two volumes in 2004 (Pathogenic Fungi: Host Interactions and Emerging Strategies for Control and Pathogenic Fungi: Structural Biology and Taxonomy). Purpose: According to the editors, the aim of this book is to support the “busy research scientist and/or teacher of medical mycology to keep abreast of...the latest advances in fungal pathogens.” This aptly sums up the role of this new book. The authors present a succinct review of new information on fungal pathogenicity. Audience: This book is designed chiefly for scientists working in the area of fungal pathogenicity, but it could be used as a textbook for a graduate course. The authors involved in this updated version are all productive scientists working in this field. Features: This new volume focuses on gene expression and regulation in fungal pathogens. It describes how to use a molecular approach to discover new antifungal drugs. Several chapters provide important new information about the host-fungal interaction. The book demonstrates the signaling between the yeast or fungi and the host cells. It then discusses how this interaction can change during the process from normal, harmless flora to a dangerous pathogen. There is fascinating information on the pathogen-specific recognition receptors used by the host immune response to innately respond to this invasion. These chapters also describe the coordination between innate and adaptive immune responses. Additional interesting information is how biofilms are used by fungal pathogens to protect the colony and assist survival within a host. There is additional data on the ability to detect fungi using new molecular techniques as diagnostic tools. Assessment: This new volume on the current research on fungal pathogens is a valuable resource for both scientists and clinicians. These discoveries will clearly lead to new drug discoveries and therapeutic tests that will save the lives of many patients.

Reviewer: Rebecca T. Horvat, PhD, D(ABMM) (University of Kansas Medical Center)
ENZINGER AND WEISS’S SOFT TISSUE TUMORS, 5TH EDITION

Editors: Sharon W. Weiss, MD; John R. Goldblum, MD

Bibliographic Data: Elsevier, 2008. Imprint: Mosby. ISBN: 978-0-323-04628-2, NLM: WD 375, 1258 pages, hard cover, $349.00.

Reviewer’s Expert Opinion:

Description: This is the fifth edition of the classic textbook of soft tissue tumor pathology that has dominated the field ever since it was first published in 1983. Extensively updated and expanded from its previous edition seven years ago, it covers in great detail all aspects of soft tissue pathology, illustrating the clinical, macroscopic, and microscopic features of essentially all currently known tumors and related non-neoplastic conditions involving the soft tissue of the human body. Purpose: In the seven years since the fourth edition, the field of soft tissue pathology has advanced so much that it was absolutely necessary to update this classic and provide the eagerly expectant readers with a major revision. The authors, who now also could be called editors since they have gathered 10 contributors for this edition, have undertaken this task systematically and completed it “con brio,” deserving the highest marks for their efforts. Audience: Although written primarily for pathologists and pathologists in training, the book will be used by orthopedic surgeons and oncologists as well. Dr. Sharon Weiss, the coauthor of the eponymic original edition is (to use an operatic metaphor) the reigning expert of soft tissue pathology. The coeditor, Dr. John R. Goldblum, is the chairman of the great pathology team at the Cleveland Clinic and a well known medical writer and editor. Both editors have a huge following among practicing pathologist in the U.S. and abroad and are admired for their didactic as well diagnostic achievements. This book reflects both. Features: The 37 chapters cover all classic as well as newly described clinicopathologic entities encountered in soft tissue pathology. The material is presented systematically and illustrated with excellent gross and microscopic photographs. A chapter is devoted to radiology of these lesions. Additional chapters, written by contributors who work at major medical centers across the country, provide the newest cytogenetic, molecular biology, and immunohistochemical data essential for the proper diagnosis of soft tissue lesions. Fine needle aspiration biopsy, an important new diagnostic approach, is also described for the sake of completeness. At the end of each chapter are well chosen references, including current ones dating up to 2006. Each chapter also contains excellent tables of data best presented in a summary form or of facts important for the differential diagnosis of closely related entities. The book ends with a useful index. Assessment: This is one of the classics of modern surgical pathology, celebrating, as the authors state in the preface, its silver anniversary. It has survived Dr. Enzinger, one of the two original authors, and I can confidently predict that it will survive all of its current readers as well and easily reach its golden anniversary in due time. I am at a loss to find proper words to express my admiration for this masterfully conceived and faultlessly prepared revision of the fourth edition, which was by all standards excellent as well. In the current version, it remains one of the cornerstones of modern surgical pathology. It contains all that you ever need for diagnosing soft tissue tumors and much more. It is detailed, well written, up to date, authoritative, credible and practice-oriented. I could go on and on, but I will skip the panegyrics and simply state that I could not imagine a better textbook of soft tissue pathology. This is an absolute must for all practicing and academic pathologists and their residents and fellows, but it should be also available to surgical and medical oncologists, and thus it should be on the reference shelf of all hospital and university libraries.

Reviewer: Ivan Damjanov, MD (University of Kansas Medical Center)

THE NEUROLOGICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF PEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROMES

Editors: Leslie L. Barton, MD; Neil R. Friedman, MBChB

Bibliographic Data: Humana Press Inc., 2008. ISBN: 978-1-58829-967-3, Series Title: Infectious Disease, 448 pages, hard cover, $139.00.

Reviewer’s Expert Opinion:

Description: This book addresses the neurologic emergencies of pediatric infections and immunodeficiencies in a logical, consistent fashion. Sections are organized by offending organisms and cover neurologic syndromes, their diagnosis and treatment. Purpose: The authors’ goal is to provide an authoritative, current reference on neurologic problems in infectious diseases and immunodeficiency states. An accessible reference is much welcomed. These are common clinical situations, and, until now, no book has had this focus. Audience: It is written for physicians in training, primary care physicians, and subspecialists. Anyone treating or aspiring to treat ill children will profit from this book. Features: The book is organized by organisms (viruses, bacteria, helminthes, etc.) with occasional chapters on particular clinical entities (e.g., bacterial meningitis, immunodeficiencies, elective treatments). Infectious disease data is sometimes more thorough than neurologic insights (bacterial meningitis). The consistent chapter organization is helpful. Assessment: There is no comparable book and this one is welcome and useful. Neurologists will be better educated about infection than infectious disease scholars looking for insights into neurology. A second edition seems inevitable for this excellent reference. It might profit from a neurologist co-author for some chapters. As a neurologist, I will open this book frequently.

Reviewer: John Willis, MD (Ochsner Clinic Foundation)