
This book provides a useful and thorough overview of a number of different aspects of the autism. The contributing authors are all American, and most hail from the east coast. After an introduction and overview by Isabel Rapin, the book commences with a discussion of the genetics of autism by Joseph Piven and Susan Folstein. They report the evidence showing that autism is a highly heritable condition as well as data indicating that the liability is not for autism per se but for a more broadly defined autistic trait. They describe autistic traits in children and a milder cognitive and social deficits. Michelle Dunn then describes the neurophysiological findings in autism and their implications for neurologi- cal dysfunction. Two chapters with Nancy McVeigh and Thomas Kemper discuss the neuropathological observations and highlight the maturational abnormalities found in the cerebellum and limbic system (hippocampus and amygdala). Subsequently Jocelyne Bachevalier describes the contribution of medial temporal lobe function to memory and problems in primates. Memory defects in autism are described by Ronald Killiany and Mark Moss. Jeremy Schmahmann describes the possible role of the cerebellum in autism and George Anderson details the neurochemical findings.

Finally, Margaret Bauman and Thomas Kemper write an epilogue. One of the things that they say in this epilogue is that "Having brought authors been made to consider the crucial role of patho-physiological processes in Alzheimer disease and the potential of neuropharmacological interventions in the treatment of this condition. The book is dedicated to the memory of Professor James E. Gershon, whose vision and energy have been instrumental in the development of this field of research."


The book is presented in an attractive format, with a broad coverage of a variety of different topics. The editors have considered the current knowledge on the pathology of Parkinson's disease and the potential of neuropharmacologi- cal interventions. The book provides a comprehensive overview of the latest research and its implications for the treatment of this condition. Unfortunately, the book is somewhat disappointing in terms of its comprehensiveness. There is a lack of coverage of the latest research findings and the potential of neuropharmacological interventions in the treatment of this condition. The book is dedicated to the memory of Professor James E. Gershon, whose vision and energy have been instrumental in the development of this field of research.
The Neurobiology of Autism

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J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 1995 58: 396
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.58.3.396

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