

BOOKS RECEIVED

HEARING: ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, AND DISORDERS OF THE AUDITORY SYSTEM - SECOND EDITION. 2006. By Aage R. Moller. Published by Elsevier. 309 pages. C\$95 approx.

GENERALIZED SEIZURES: FROM CLINICAL PHENOMENOLOGY TO UNDERLYING SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS. 2006. Edited by Edouard Hirsch, Frederick Andermann, Patrick Chauvel, Jerome Engel, Fernando Lopes da Silva, Hans Luders. Published by John Libbey Eurotext Limited. 320 pages. C\$120 approx.

ATLAS OF NEUROSURGICAL TECHNIQUES - BRAIN. 2007. By Laligam N. Sekhar, Richard G. Fessler. Published by Thieme. 1104 pages. C\$405 approx.

THE PHYSIOLOGICAL BASIS AND QUANTUM VERSIONS OF MEMORY AND CONSCIOUSNESS. 2006. By Arthur J. Hudson. Published by The Edwin Mellen Press, Ltd. 220 pages. C\$130 approx.

EXAMINATION OF PERIPHERAL NERVE INJURIES - AN ANATOMICAL APPROACH. 2006. By Stephen M. Russell. Published by Thieme. 178 pages. C\$60 approx.

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES IN NEUROSURGERY. 2006. Edited by C. Nimsky, R. Fahlbusch. Published by SpringerWienNewYork. 103 pages. C\$150 approx.

INTEGRATIVE ACTION OF THE AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM - NEUROBIOLOGY OF HOMEOSTASIS. 2006. By Wilfrid Janig. Published by Cambridge University Press. 610 pages. C\$200 approx.

NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASE - EVIDENCE AND ANALYSIS IN CLINICAL NEUROLOGY. 2006. By Michael Benatar. Published by The Humana Press Inc. 483 pages. C\$170 approx.

THE EMBRYONIC HUMAN BRAIN - AN ATLAS OF DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES. THIRD EDITION. 2006. By Ronan O'Rahilly, Fabiola Muller. Published by John Wiley & Sons Inc. 358 pages. C\$450 approx.

PARKINSON'S DISEASE - A COMPLETE GUIDE FOR PATIENTS & FAMILIES. SECOND EDITION. 2007. By William J. Weiner, Lisa M. Shulman, Anthony E. Lang. Published by The Johns Hopkins University Press. 278 pages. C\$20 approx.

BOOKS REVIEWED

ADVANCES AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS IN NEUROSURGERY. VOLUME 31. 2006. Edited by J.D. Pickard, N. Akalan, C. Di Rocco, et al. Published by SpringerWienNewYork. 289 pages. Price C\$200.

This book represents the latest in a series which began in 1974 whose goal is to foster collaboration within the European Scientific community, particularly with regards to Neurosurgery, as well as to serve as a medium for further education of neurosurgical trainees. The text is structured in two parts; the first being advances where a basic science topic is reviewed in detail, and the second being the technical standards where the focus is more on surgical techniques.

In the scientific advances section Wirth and Ylä-Herttua discuss "Gene Technology Based Therapies in the Brain". This is an interesting chapter which provides a fair description of the history of gene therapy as well as the concerns regarding this form of treatment and the setbacks the field underwent in the late 1990's. They focus on four main diseases - Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's Disease, vascular diseases (vasospasm after subarachnoid hemorrhage and ischemic stroke) and brain tumors. The predominant focus of clinical work is described in the studies for management of brain tumors. Once they have outlined this background they describe the

challenges that investigators in the field face both biologically and socially. It is a very good review of the proposed mechanisms of action and the basic science behind these potential therapies. They conclude their chapter with a discussion of the ethics and the dilemmas facing researchers in the field. They stress that the "normal principle of good clinical research" apply to this field, and I think that this is a fair statement given the controversies that surround this therapy. Overall this is a well written chapter with extensive references for people who want a background in this field.

The technical standards section opens with a discussion of the anatomy of the orbit and surgical approach by Hayek and colleagues. These authors provide an excellent anatomical description of the orbit based on cadaveric dissections. Although the description is very detailed with regards to the orbital viscera, nervous and vascular structures, they could have provided more reference to the figures and labeled some of the figures in more detail. They conclude this chapter with a discussion of the surgical approaches to the orbit. In particular they describe the lateral approach, the superior approach and the hybrid lateral superior approach, which is what they describe as their preference. Overall I think this chapter is well written. It contains a lot of detail but it