

## Preface

The last decade has seen major advances in our understanding of the basic scientific principles that underpin clinical neurology. Many of these advances have already had a major impact on routine clinical practice, and this is likely to continue in the future. Although this makes it an exciting time to practice neurology, it also presents new challenges. How can established general neurologists keep up to date with clinically relevant scientific advances, and how can the specialist remain competent outside his own field? What should trainee neurologists learn to prepare them for their future career?

*Neuroscience for Neurologists* is a single volume describing the scientific principles behind neurology. The chapters were initially commissioned as a series of review articles published in *The Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry*, and were written by experts in each field. When compiled into a single volume, the text takes the reader from the human genome, through gene expression, to molecular and cellular pathology, and subsequently to contemporary clinical investigations and clinical trials. The overriding aim is to provide succinct chapters that will be easily accessible by neurologists and trainees who have no expertise in the area.

Many of the chapters are co-written by a clinician and a basic scientist, and each has been subject to peer review — both by experts in the field and also by a practicing general neurologist. This has ensured that the chapters reflect contemporary scientific thinking which is presented in a way that is easy to digest. Diagrams and figures have been used to help explain difficult concepts, along with a glossary explaining the terminology, and web-links to further information for both physicians and patients. Finally, each chapter includes some speculation about the future, highlighting areas of potential growth and their relevance to routine clinical practice over the next decade.

I am very grateful to Professor Chris Kennard (Imperial College London) for his support putting this volume together, along with the staff at the *JNNP* office. Hopefully readers will find the book interesting,

informative and easily accessible. The aim is to give confidence in areas that we do not consider our own, enhance and enrich our clinical practice, and thereby improve the care that we give to patients with neurological disease.

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