
BOOK REVIEW

Neuroscientific Basis of Dementia

(Tanaka, C., McGeer, P. L., and Ihara, Y., eds., Birkhauser Verlag,
Basel-Boston-Berlin, 2001, ISBN 3-7643-6205-7)

The volume "Neuroscientific Basis of Dementia" is devoted to the problems of dementia and contains the papers presented at the International Symposium in Kobe (Japan) in September 1999. In this volume current data concerning the problems of dementia beginning from the molecular basis of this disease to diagnostics and therapy are presented. The book begins with papers of Y. Nishizuka and P. McGeer devoted to the problems of inflammation in the nervous system and intracellular signaling system involving protein kinase C and lipids of the cell membrane. The other papers are grouped into five chapters. The first chapter deals with memory formation and its impairment in neurodegenerative diseases. Chapters 2, 3, and 4 are devoted to pathogenesis of dementias and involvement of different protein factors in their development. Eight papers of the chapter 2 are about the involvement of protein τ into pathogenesis of

various neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and lateral amyotrophic syndrome. Chapter 3 contains three papers devoted to the role of synuclein in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease and the possible use of this protein as a target for the development of drugs preventing the progress of dementia. Chapter 4 presents thirteen papers of leading researchers on the role of presenilins and the protein amyloid in the pathogenesis of dementias of various types. The last chapter of the book includes five papers on the diagnosis and therapeutics of neurodegenerative diseases particularly the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. The reader will find a rich intellectual array in this volume. Key aspects of a vast and scattered literature have been neatly drawn together to provide an integrated view of one of the major medical problems of our time.

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