

BOOK REVIEW

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Review of Neurotraumatology: Biomechanic Aspects Cytologic and Molecular Mechanisms. Research in Legal Medicine, Vol. 17.

REFERENCE: Oehmichen M, König HG (eds.). Schmidt-Romhild, Lubeck, ISBN 3-7950-0314-8, 355 pages, DM 48.

In recent years research in the most diverse disciplines has led to major progress in the field of Neurotraumatology. The present volume offers a selection of the latest findings by scientists of several nations, with particular attention to their application to the problems of forensic neuropathology. Each contribution is based on a talk given in 1996 at the VIIth Lübeck Workshop. Both editors are active in the field of forensic medicine, one as a pathologist, the other as a physicist.

The book is divided into five sections, each comprised of several papers. The first section consists of four articles on biomechanical issues. The authors describe not only their own observations but also the results of computer simulations based on finite element-based mechanical measurements. The second section deals with

the phenomenon of neuronal death and certain genetic issues. This is followed by two sections offering detailed information on axonal injury and microglia cells. The last section informs on recent investigations on edema and S-100 protein.

The authors are all internationally known specialists in the field of Neurotraumatology. Each provides a survey of their own investigations with special regard to their relevance to the problems of forensic pathology. Each paper is accompanied by multiple figures and an extensive list of references.

This volume offers a comprehensive insight into current research in the field of Neurotraumatology, the majority of contributions being morphologically oriented. It deals almost exclusively with traumatology of the brain; a single paper each is devoted to the spinal cord and the peripheral nervous system.

The book is excellently edited and completed by a subject index. Not only is it informative, but it should also stimulate others to future research projects. For forensic pathologists seeking information on the latest research in Neurotraumatology, this is the book to recommend. The comparatively low price makes even the less than optimal quality of the figures quite acceptable.

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