**Function of the Basal Ganglia**


This volume represents the proceedings of a meeting organized by David Evered and held at the Ciba Foundation and concerns both basic and clinical aspects of the basal ganglia.

The volume is divided into three sections, each ending with a general discussion. The first topic concerns the anatomical relationships and physiological activities of the basal ganglia, including its relationship to the limbic system and motor control. The second topic, which is divided into two sections, is the neurochemistry of the basal ganglia, with particular emphasis on dopamine and GABA. The third section generally concerns pathophysiology.

Each chapter reflects the topic from an individual perspective, which is of particular value, since most of the authors are the recognized authorities in each subject, such as Evarts, Calne, Carpenter, Graybiel, Hornykiewicz, Marsden, and Nauta, to name just a few. The total effect is to present an update of many aspects of an extremely broad subject in a comprehensive and authoritative manner. The volume would be of value to anyone working in research concerning the basal ganglia or its diseases.

Philip L. Gildenberg, Houston

*Serald M. Aronoff*

**Evaluation and Treatment of Chronic Pain**


This is one of those rare books that can be recommended for every worker in the targeted field. It begins with several forwards and an introduction that set the tone for the entire volume, each by a recognized pioneer in the field of chronic pain management, and then offers chapters in a broad array of fields, including medical and neurological evaluation, headache and facial pain, physical aspects of management, psychological aspects of management, the role of each member of the chronic pain clinic team, and various modalities in the management of chronic pain, all with a heavy emphasis on the underlying psychodynamics of the chronic pain patient and how these dynamics relate to management of chronic pain.
Some chapters might be discussed specifically, although most would be worthy of mention. The chapter by Graham on headache presents a graphic explanation of the various types of both organic and psychogenic headache. Sweet and Poletti discuss causalgia from both the historical and clinical perspectives. The chapters by Aronoff on pharmacological management, psychodynamics, psychiatry and psychological management, and the role of pain centers express graphically the importance of these aspects in the evaluation and management of chronic pain, while his chapter reviewing follow-up studies criticizes pain centers for inadequately documenting long-term effects of their programs. Orne's review of nonpharmacological modalities for chronic pain management, although reprinted from another publication, suggests several modalities that might extend the capabilities of any pain team.

The book is well presented, with most chapters of excellent quality. The philosophy is generally consistent throughout, leading to a cohesive concept of the subject and presenting a viewpoint which is of increasing importance in the management of chronic pain. The approach is conservative, expressing the importance of the underlying psychological factors without disregarding the underlying physical pathology. Although there are a few chapters dealing with cancer pain, which is totally different from chronic pain of benign origin in both the physiological and management aspects, those chapters are specifically labelled.

In summary, this book is of value to anyone concerned with the management of patients with chronic pain, not only those working in pain clinics, but any physician or surgeon who must make management decisions about such patients, which includes most physicians. Certainly any neurosurgeon who contemplates a procedure for pain management should be aware of pitfalls in evaluation and alternative forms of management, which this book presents extremely well. Philip L. Gildenberg, Houston