Stroke Data Banks

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Editorial

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Bethesda Md. USA The articles in this volume of Neuroepidemiology were pre- sented at the workshop 'Challenging Issues in Stroke Data was organized and sponsored by The Institute for Stroke Research and Stroke Prevention of the Scientific Academy of Lower Austria (The Danube University) and The National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke of the NIH in Bethesda, Md., USA.

These papers give a vivid and valid synopsis of stroke data base research. Some data bases were originally designed as population-based registries; others focused on extensive investigation of a hospital-based cohort, concentrating on stroke syndromes and etiology.

Contributions to this volume represent a broad range of methodologic issues relevant to clinical research. The process of creating, collecting and analyzing data has provided innovative solutions to clinical questions about stroke that can be addressed by well-designed data bases. It has been our intention that this volume will help disseminate these successful solutions.

While we have not attempted to arrive at a formal consensus, this workshop and volume do initiate the discussion. One can find consistent elements throughout, and it is our hope that the next generation of stroke data bases will benefit from the continuing methodological advances occurring in this field.