N.	Nobuo	Yanagisawa
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Matsumoto

Preface

The 1994 Parkinson symposium focused on basal ganglia functions and the management of advanced stages of Parkinson’s disease. Recent physiological and neuropsychological studies of Parkinson’s disease or animal experiments revealed functions of basal ganglia in voluntary or involuntary movements, posture and locomotion and in cognition related to movement. Neural activities in the striatum and in the globus pallidus in awake animals, with relevant data, led to the formulation of neural circuitries, which helps to explain various enigma of extrapyramidal diseases. Elucidation of functions of motor cortices including supplementary motor area and premotor area may lead to further understanding of motor functions of basal ganglia. Extensive studies on the cognitive dysfunctions in Parkinson’s disease are expected to reveal functions of the frontostriatal system in cognition. In this symposium, recent advances in studies on the physiology and pathophysiology of basal ganglia and related structures were described, particulary attempts to understand parkinsonian symptoms and other basal ganglia disorders. The second topic was long-term management of Parkinson’s disease. The course of Parkinson’s disease is prolonged by successful medical treatment, which is still in progress due to marketing of new drugs. Symptom fluctuations, CNS side effects, and psychic or autonomic symptoms in the advanced stages of the disease have become important problems. These issues were discussed from various aspects. A long-term agonist monotherapy which had been carried out as a nationwide study in Japan was presented. Management of psychic symptoms and newly modified pallidotomy were also presented. Presentations and discussions in this symposium on progress in the research of functions and dysfunctions of basal ganglia and related structures, and on comprehensive management of long-term Parkinson’s disease proved most fruitful. The organizers expressed their sincere gratitude to all the speakers and participants in the symposium.