D.G		McLone
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Chicago, Ill., USA

Editorial

Recombinant DNA technology has dramatically changed our understanding of the cause and therefore the treatment of disease. This is especially true for neoplasms and congenital malformations of the nervous system. Almost daily advances are made in unlocking the mechanisms of cell cycle in normal and abnormal cell replication. Thanks to the fruit fly, drosophila, the genes which direct early assembly of the nervous system are discovered at a rate that surprises even the scientist.

Today 10% of the papers presented at our meetings are related to molecular genetics, in 5 years it will be 50%. If we, pediatric neurosurgeons, are to remain current and at the focus of care of children with neoplasms and congenital malformations, we must understand this blossoming new technology. Ultimately it is likely that the diagnostic procedures and potential delivery of therapy will and should remain within the realm of the pediatric neurosur-geon. To this end Pediatric Neurosurgery is beginning two series: one on recombinant DNA technology in CNS neoplasms, more specifically pediatric brain tumors, and the other on congenital malformations. Much to the credit of individuals in our speciality, there are more than a dozen pediatric neurosurgical centers carrying out basic research on brain tumors. Almost all of the articles will therefore be written by our colleagues with appropriate emphasis on the child. These reviews will appear monthly over the next year.

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