Fetal and Perinatal Neurology

Proceedings I of the Joint Convention of the 5th International Child Neurology Congress and the 3rd Asian and Oceanian Congress of Child Neurology, Tokyo, November 4-9, 1990

Fetal and Perinatal Neurology

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Preface

Child neurology is a prestigious discipline which requires highly specialized skills and knowledge about the developing nervous system and its disorders. Progress in child neurology has been remarkably rapid and is further accelerating in recent years. As a result, the scope of the discipline has greatly expanded to cover subjects of broader range including the whole sequence of maturation from a single nerve cell to the brain. Rapid growth in the field of child neurology stemmed from the strong influence of other related disciplines, both basic and clinical. Nowadays, it is no longer possible for any child neurologist, how superb he/she may be, to satisfactorily master the entire progress in modern child neurology at a single clinic or institution. Intense interaction and close communication at various levels, including individual, institutional, regional as well as international, are essential to maintain the high standard as a child neurologist. Since its first establishment in 1973, the International Child Neurology Association (ICNA) has always strived to facilitate the advance in child neurology by holding congresses and, thus, providing opportunities of face-to-face communication between colleagues in six continents. In November 1990, the ICNA held its Fifth Congress in Tokyo, Japan, jointly with the Third Congress of the Asian and Oceanian Association of Child Neurology. The Tokyo Congress achieved a great success, with more than 900 participants from 52 countries. The scientific program included 2 award lectures, 9 plenary lectures, 15 symposia, 8 luncheon seminars and 468 free communications.

We are now satisfied with the completion of our editorial work the Proceedings of the 1990 Joint Tokyo Convention, which was truly enjoyable, owing to
the enthusiastic cooperation of the contributors. The present book is entitled Fetal and Perinatal Neurology, because of the major contributions presented at the Convention, only those specifically related to this particular field were selected for this book. Genetic as well as environmental factors involved in developmental neurology are duly analyzed; all potential risk factors during the developmental processes from the preconceptual through the embryonal, fetal and perinatal periods are discussed in 6 chapters. In the last chapter, the sensitive, but very important contemporary topic of ethical problems in child neurology is extensively treated by representatives of different cultural backgrounds, which should attract much attention of readers in every corner of the world.

The editors sincerely hope that the current book will prove to be interesting, instructive and helpful not only for child neurologists in particular, but also for child health personnel in general and scientists who are working with us, but in their own ways, for the sake of children and their parents.

Finally, we express our sincere thanks to all authors who contributed excellent manuscripts containing their original works as well as an expert review of the literature within a reasonable time period. We are also deeply indebted to Miss M. Ogasawara and Miss M. Yamauchi, who graciously typed, photocopied, filed and performed other duties to bring the manuscripts into completion. Special appreciation is due to Dr. Karger, the publisher, whose persistent cooperation and patience made the publication eventually possible.

November, 1991

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