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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Contents

Preface VII

I. Award Lectures
Johnston, M.V. (Baltimore, Md.): Physiological and Pathophysiological Roles of Excitatory Amino Acids during Central Nervous System Development. John Prichard Award Lecture 1990 19

II. Pediatric Neurogenetics
Suzuki, Y. (Tokyo): Molecular Genetics in Child Neurology 31
Sakuraba, H. (Tokyo): Fabry Disease: Molecular Heterogeneity and Phenotype-Genotype Correlations 42
Ouvrier, R.A. (Camperdown, N.S.W.): Peripheral Neuropathies in Childhood 60
Naidu, S. (Baltimore, Md.): Rett Syndrome: Update 79
Moser, H.W. (Baltimore, Md.): Therapy of Genetically Determined Metabolic Disorders 93

III. Embryology and Dysgenesis of the Brain
Sarnat, H.B. (Calgary, Alta.): Disturbances of Neuroblast Migrations after 20 Weeks Gestation
in the Human Fetus and Neonate 108
Sarnat, H.B. (Calgary, Alta.): Cerebral Plasticity in Embryological Development 118
Swaiman, K.F. (Minneapolis, Minn.): Clinical Characteristics of the Prenatal Encephalopathies 132

IV. Neurocutaneous Syndromes
Gomez, M.R. (Rochester, Minn.): Overview of the Neurocutaneous Syndromes 144
Fois, A.; Balestri, P.; Bartalini, G.; Calistri, L.; Mancini, L.; Vivarelli, R. (Siena): Genetic Epidemiology of Neurofibromatosis in Italy 154
Pascual-Castroviejo, I. (Madrid): Complications of Neurofibromatosis Type 1 in a Series of 197 Children 162

Contents VI
Rosman, N.P. (Boston, Mass.): Incontinentia Pigmenti: Presentations, Pathology, Pathogenesis and Prognosis 174
Chugani, H.T. (Los Angeles, Calif.); Dietrich, R. B. (Irvine, Calif.): Sturge-Weber Syndrome. Recent Developments in Neuroimaging and Surgical Considerations 187
Fleury, P. (Amsterdam): Summary of the Papers on Neurocutaneous Syndromes 203

V. Pre- and Perinatal Pathophysiology of Brain Damage
Harel, Sh. (Tel Aviv); Goldin, E. (Rehovot); Tomer, A. (Tel Aviv); Yavin, E. (Rehovot): Vascular-Induced Intrauterine Growth Retardation: Animal and Human Models 206
Visser, G.H.A. (Groningen): Antepartum Events and Subsequent Handicap 216
Weindling, M.; Russell, G. (Liverpool): Prenatal Pathophysiology of Brain Damage 223
Volpe, J.J. (Boston, Mass.): Perinatal Hypoxic-Ischemic Brain Injury: Overview 232
Lou, H.; Pryds, O. (Glostrup): Lost Autoregulation and the Pathogenesis of Intracranial Haemorrhage in Preterm Newborns. An Update 253

VI. New Syndromes and Rare Interesting Diseases in Child Neurology
Moser, H.W. (Baltimore, Md.): Peroxisomes and Pediatric Neurological Diseases 268
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

Preface 2

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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