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The term ‘carcinoid’ entered medical literature over 100 years ago to describe a peculiar intestinal epithelial neoplasm. Since then, a large body of literature has expanded the concept of carcinoid, later replaced by the term ‘NeuroEndocrine Tumor’ (NET), defining a wide spectrum of peculiar tumors, potentially affecting all organs and tissues, originating from neuroendocrine cells, sharing, but, at the same time, keeping pathognomonic pathological, radiological and clinical features.

This book provides an authoritative overview of the epidemiological, clinical, genetic, molecular and pathological characteristics of NETs and highlights the most relevant controversial issues in the classification, diagnosis and therapy. Furthermore, the new frontiers in the field of medical therapies are presented, through a multidisciplinary and translational approach. Considering the fact that NETs have been recently demonstrated less rare as considered so far, the book ‘Neuroendocrine Tumors: A Multidisciplinary Approach’ is a must read for endocrinologists, gastroenterologists, endocrine surgeons, as well as pathologists, nuclear medicine physicians and radiologists focused on NET.

Preface

Mauro Papotti
Wouter W. de Herder
The recent discovery of kisspeptin, neurokinin B and dynorphin A in a subset of neurons in the hypothalamus which regulate the secretion of gonadotropin-releasing hormone has revolutionized our understanding of the regulation of reproduction in man and animals.

In this Neuroendocrinology special issue four commissioned reviews from leaders in the field describe the latest developments and set the scene for further research and new discoveries.

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Neuroendocrinology publishes papers reporting original research in basic and clinical neuroendocrinology. The journal explores the complex interactions between neuronal networks and endocrine glands (in some instances also immune cells) in both central and peripheral nervous systems. Original contributions cover all aspects of the field, from molecular and cellular neuroendocrinology, physiology, pharmacology, and the neuroanatomy of neuroendocrine systems to neuroendocrine correlates of behaviour, clinical neuroendocrinology and neuroendocrine cancers. Readers will also benefit from reviews by noted experts, which highlight especially active areas of current research, and special focus editions of topical interest.

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Medical Statistics has never been easier!

David E. Matthews
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Using and Understanding Medical Statistics
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The fifth revised edition of this highly successful book presents the most extensive enhancement since Using and Understanding Medical Statistics was first published 30 years ago. Without question, the single greatest change has been the inclusion of source code, together with selected output, for the award-winning, open-source, statistical package known as R. This innovation has enabled the authors to de-emphasize formulae and calculations, and let software do all of the 'heavy lifting'.

This edition also introduces readers to several graphical statistical tools, such as Q-Q plots to check normality, residual plots for multiple regression models, funnel plots to detect publication bias in a meta-analysis and Bland-Altman plots for assessing agreement in clinical measurements. New examples that better serve the expository goals have been added to a half-dozen chapters. In addition, there are new sections describing exact confidence bands for the Kaplan-Meier estimator, as well as negative binomial and zero-inflated Poisson regression models for over-dispersed count data.

The end result is not only an excellent introduction to medical statistics, but also an invaluable reference for every discerning reader of medical research literature.

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New Insights into GnRH Neuron Development, Programming and Regulation in Health and Disease

This special issue of Neuroendocrinology brings together a series of new aspects in GnRH research, encompassing fundamental studies on the regulation of the GnRH neuron at a molecular and electrophysiological level, studies on pulsatile gene expression in GnRH-promoter-luciferase transgenic mice, and the impact of novel guidance proteins (semaphorins) on GnRH neuron migration. Further topics include animal models of metabolic, immunological, bacterial and steroidogenic reproductive neuroendocrine programming, and clinical studies on the use of kisspeptin ligands to stimulate or inhibit the reproductive system. The discoveries and proposals made in this issue promise to revolutionize the current understanding of the mechanism of GnRH neuron regulation of reproduction, and will be essential reading for anyone involved in the field of GnRH research.

Cover Illustration
Schematic representation summarizing the expression levels and actions of Sema3A and Sema7A on the morphological plasticity of GnRH neurons and tanycytes during proestrus and diestrus in female rodents. See Giacobini, pp. 200–215.