

BOOK REVIEW

Mechanisms of Secondary Brain Damage from Trauma and Ischemia Recent Advances of our Understanding, edited by Alexander Baethmann, Jörg Eriskat, Jens Lehmborg & Nikolaus Plesnila, pp. 127, 2004. Price € 98. ISBN 3 21120 932 8. Springer-Verlag GmbH, Wien, Austria.

In this book, Baethmann and his colleagues have gathered papers that were presented at the 7th International Symposium on Mechanisms of Secondary Brain Damage in Mals, Italy, in 2001. The subjects discussed include a diverse variety of central nervous system injury mechanisms in focal and global brain ischaemia, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, motor neurone lesions and optic nerve crush injury. Separate chapters present methodological aspects of gene profiling, the role of mitochondrial proteins for neuronal death after focal cerebral ischaemia, signalling mechanisms for survival of lesioned motor neurones, genetically modified animals in molecular stroke research, the dual role of inflammation in ischaemic and traumatic central nervous system injury, the natural course of lesion development in brain ischaemia, pharmacological preconditioning in global cerebral ischaemia, the effects of nifedipine in optic nerve crush injury, quantitative EEG analysis and laser Doppler flowmetry for studies of cerebral cortical perfusion after traumatic brain injury, glial scarring in central nervous system lesions, recovery of function after spinal cord injury, and lessons from clinical trials of traumatic brain injury.

The introduction includes a philosophical analysis on the relevance of knowledge; a rarely seen but welcome contribution in this context. I especially appreciated the chapter about gene profiling, which contained some useful website addresses, and the condensed, yet information-packed, review of the usage of genetically modified animals in molecular stroke research by

K. A. Hossman. The book ends with important chapters dealing with the reasons for failure in clinical traumatic brain injury trials, for example, chapters on lessons from epidemiological studies in clinical trials of traumatic brain injury by Farin and Marshall and on clinical trials in traumatic brain injury: current problems and future solutions by Maas, Marmarou, Murray and Steyerberg. In these chapters, the authors draw guidelines for future successful translational research, and an overview of all large phase III trials conducted in head injury is given. The risks of dichotomizing the Glasgow outcome scale into favourable and unfavourable subgroups are discussed. In my opinion, it would have been interesting to hear the authors' views on introducing a more complex outcome scale in order to pick up subtle functional changes after neuroprotection in clinical head injury trials; however, this discussion is lacking.

In summary, the scope of the book is to give a reasonable timely update of where the research field is heading in selected areas, rather than giving a comprehensive overview of all secondary injury mechanisms. The book is probably best suited for readers who need an introduction to the research field of secondary mechanisms in central nervous system injury. With that in mind, Baethmann and his colleagues are successful.

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ERRATUM

Åberg, A.: Gender comparisons of function-related dependence, pain and insecurity in geriatric rehabilitation. *J Rehabil Med* 2005; 37: 378–384. DOI: 10.1080/16501970510041235.

Due to mistakes by the Editorial Office the references in the text to the tables and the numbering are incorrect. Also, the appendix has been wrongly changed into a table. The correct

version of the paper is published below (on page 73) in its entirety.

We are sorry for this and apologize for the inconvenience this has caused the author.

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