

inhibitor of protein synthesis, was without effect. Increased PCD may prevent development of conditions like leukaemia, lymphomas, lymphoid hyperplasia or different autoimmune diseases, since resistance to PCD may be coupled to these disorders (Kroemer & Martinez 1994). In analogy, TCAs that induce apoptosis may therefore be useful in downregulating development of these disorders.

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Book Review

Psychopharmacology: the Fourth Generation of Progress
An Official Publication of the American College of
Neuropsychopharmacology
Editors-in-Chief Floyd E. Bloom and David J. Kupfer
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This book represents the fourth in the series of official publications prepared for the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology on the state of the art in psychopharmacology. For those familiar with these editions, it is sufficient to say that the fourth issue, despite having a slightly different format, maintains the review style of presentation and is even heavier than before. Newcomers to the series must surely be newcomers to psychopharmacology but they can be certain that whatever their discipline, it will be represented, and wherever appropriate, the review will be an upgrade from the previous 'generation'.

The editors have subdivided the book simply along pre-clinical or clinical lines having much cross-reference, with a third small section headed Special Topics regarded by the Editors-in-Chief as topics of the future.

Each of the major sections is introduced by a chapter giving an overview of and a rationale for its contents. For the reviewer seeking to understand the aims of the editors, these chapters are quite useful though their main function appears to be a replacement for what might have been a rather long editorial. Following this single chapter each section considers, in turn, some of the pertinent methodology, the major target areas and a series of integrative concepts which cannot neatly be parcelled in with the main target areas.

The chapters on methods in both the preclinical and clinical divisions are successful additions, which should prove particularly useful for the new student or the supervisor approaching new disciplines. However, a chapter on statistical methodology would not have gone amiss, and although the chapter on neuropsychological testing is an excellent review of methods available to monitor dementia, there is surely an argument for a more general review of neuropsychological testing in the context of psychopharmacology.

The major body of the preclinical section focuses on neurotransmitters both traditional and those whose credentials are less well established. Where appropriate, the reviewers have taken the previous generation as the starting off point and where possible have proceeded along one of the four major alignments of neuroscience research — molecular, cellular, multicellular or behavioural — thus providing a wide-ranging database for the neurobiologist of almost any persuasion. The extent to which this has proved possible reflects the volume of research data available. For the newer neuromessengers such as arachidonic and nitric oxide, there are single chapters which will undoubtedly prove to be growth areas of the future.

The clinical section is presented similarly with specific disorders being the target areas, reviewed in relation to both psychobiology and treatment. Mood disorders and schizophrenia receive the largest input but the greatest increase in coverage, reflecting the advances made since the previous generation, is apparent in the geriatric disorders, the neurological disorders, AIDS and substance abuse. There is, inevitably, some degree of selectivity but this section should prove to be a valuable source book for the practising clinician as well as the research psychiatrist.

The themes discussed under Special Topics seem to represent areas of special interest for members of the pharmaceutical industry, but the chapters on ethical and cultural aspects of psychopharmacology and on violence and aggression highlight the omission of chapters specifically addressing pharmacogenetics and forensic psychopharmacology, respectively.

With such extensive cross-referencing between chapters, chapter numbers on the page headings would have been helpful. Otherwise, the book is well presented, well indexed and, on the whole, very readable, even if there is a tendency for the European and southern hemisphere literature to be poorly represented. Concern must be expressed, however, that the generations are becoming shorter with each issue and at the present rate of progress, within the next 30 years, there will be 'annual' generation — and that may be more than most bookshelves can support.

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