

- Secretory proteins of the human endometrium;
- Clinical aspects of implantation;
- Location and orientation of implantation;
- Growth factors and early mammalian development;
- Trophoblast interferons as antiluteolysins;
- Fate of human pregnancies.

This book would be useful for obstetricians, gynaecologists, paediatricians, and general clinicians.

**Steroids in Diseases of the Central Nervous System.** Edited by R. CAPILDEO. Published 1989 by Wiley, Chichester. No. of pages: 320. ISBN: 0-471-91959-4. Price: \$66.00.

The widespread use of steroids in medicine and in diseases of the central nervous system in particular, highlights the obvious difference between "medicine the art" and "medicine the science". The volume of scientific literature on steroid chemistry, physiology and pharmacology in the last 30 years is impressive and, as can be seen in this book, this knowledge continues to grow with new molecules planned for the future. In contrast, the use of steroids in clinical practice remains intuitive. When should steroids be used, which steroid should be used, what dose and for how long remain "guesses", rather on a day-to-day basis. Perhaps the clinical uncertainty is a reflection of the uncertainty as to the mode of action of steroids in different medical conditions and situations, and might explain why so few clinical trials with steroid therapy have been performed in diseases of the central nervous system.

The aim of this book is to bring this body of knowledge together with all the imperfections that such a task is bound to include. The current interest in high-dose steroid therapy points to new therapeutic avenues for the future.

The book covers the following main topics:

- Basic sciences;
- Brain tumours;
- Head and spinal cord injuries;
- Pain;
- Multiple sclerosis; and
- Other neurological diseases.

It would be useful for clinicians, neuroendocrinologists, neurologists, as well as for advanced students.

**Recombinant DNA Methodology.** Edited by R. WU, L. GROSSMAN and K. MOLDAVE. Published 1989 by Academic Press, San Diego. No. of pages: 760. ISBN: 0-12-765560-3.

Recombinant DNA methods are revolutionary techniques that allow the cloning of a single gene—isolation of a gene in large amounts—from a pool of millions of genes. These techniques also allow specific modification of the isolated genes or their regulator regions for analysis or for re-introduction into cells for the production of large amounts of specific RNA or protein molecules. These powerful new methods lead to unprecedented possibilities for solving complex biological problems or for producing new and better products in the fields of medicine, agriculture, and industry.

This volume of "Selected Methods in Enzymology" includes important contributions from Volumes 68, 100, 101, 153, 154, and 155 of "Methods in Enzymology". The selection of articles was based mainly on the following criteria: inclusion in the article of extensive description or theoretical discussion of important methods and specific information still up-to-date and useful.

The volume contains the following main sections:

- Recombinant DNA techniques;
- Enzymes used in recombinant DNA research;
- Synthesis, isolation, and purification of DNA;
- Vehicles and hosts for the cloning of recombinant DNA;
- Screening and selection of cloned DNA;
- Detection and analysis of expression of cloned genes;
- Use of enzymes in recombinant DNA research;
- Enzymes affecting the gross morphology of DNA;
- Proteins with specialized functions acting at specific loci;
- New methods for DNA isolation, hybridization, and cloning;
- Analytical methods for gene products;
- Mutagenesis: *in vitro* and *in vivo*;
- New vectors for cloning genes;
- Cloning of genes into yeast cells;
- Systems for monitoring cloned gene expression;
- Vectors for cloning DNA;
- Vectors for expression of cloned genes;
- Methods for cloning DNA;
- Identification of cloned genes and mapping of genes;
- Chemical synthesis and analysis of oligodeoxynucleotides;
- Site-specific mutagenesis and protein engineering;
- Restriction enzymes;
- Rapid methods for DNA sequence analysis;
- Miscellaneous methods.

This book would be very useful for people working in molecular biology, biophysics, biochemistry, and general biology, as well as for advanced students.