



Neurología clínica



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PREFACIO A LA QUINTA EDICIÓN

Neurología clínica es un tratado práctico de neurología que incluye todo lo relacionado con la neurociencia clínica, y ofrece no sólo una descripción de las enfermedades neurológicas y su fisiopatología, sino también un método práctico para su diagnóstico y tratamiento. En el prefacio a la primera edición de este libro, publicado en 1991, pronosticamos que los principales avances tecnológicos y de investigación pronto revelarían la causa subyacente y el tratamiento potencial de un número cada vez mayor de enfermedades neurológicas.

Los diecisiete años transcurridos desde esa predicción se han llenado con la emoción de nuevos descubrimientos derivados del florecimiento de la neurociencia, especialmente la disciplina de neurogenética. Muchas de las enfermedades hereditarias que en ese momento eran un interrogante se han elucidado con los descubrimientos de las mutaciones génicas subyacentes. Se empiezan a conocer mejor diversas *degeneraciones* neurológicas aparentemente esporádicas con la aplicación del cribado de todo el genoma de genes de susceptibilidad. Aunque estos descubrimientos aún no se han traducido en *curas*, la investigación en la regeneración del sistema nervioso y la biología de las células madre empieza a dar esperanzas de curación del sistema nervioso dañado.

Además de la neurogenética, se ha realizado un avance extraordinario en otras áreas de la neurociencia, como la neuroinmunología, la neuroimagen y la neurofisiología. La expansión del campo de la neuroterapéutica experimental ha cambiado gradualmente la percepción de la neurología de ser principalmente una especialidad diagnóstica a ser una disciplina muy implicada en el tratamiento. Los avances en neurofarmacología han fomentado el desarrollo de nuevos fármacos y ensayos terapéuticos, con una mayor confianza en la medicina basada en la evidencia. Actualmente también se están aplicando a la neurocirugía métodos rigurosos en el diseño y la realización de ensayos clínicos, incluido el uso de controles de referencia. No obstante, aún nos queda un largo camino por recorrer para lograr el objetivo final de poder comprender y tratar todas las enfermedades neurológicas. La neurología sigue siendo una disciplina intelectualmente excitante,

por la complejidad del sistema nervioso y por el conocimiento que la fisiopatología de la enfermedad neurológica aporta a las investigaciones sobre el cerebro y la mente. En consecuencia, ofrecemos la quinta edición de *Neurología clínica* como una presentación completa, actualizada y más fidedigna del arte y la ciencia de la neurología.

Para esta edición se ha reescrito completamente el texto, y casi una quinta parte de los capítulos han sido preparados por autores nuevos en el cuadro de colaboradores. Se han vuelto a diseñar las páginas para ofrecer un entorno que facilite el acceso al material. Se ha mejorado y ampliado la página web acompañante, www.nicp.com, que incluye material de vídeo y audio, ilustraciones y referencias adicionales, y capítulos sobre material clave relacionado procedente de otros textos de neurología de renombre. Se actualiza periódicamente con minirrevisiones de importantes publicaciones nuevas en la literatura neurológica. [Todos estos contenidos electrónicos acompañan la edición original, por lo que se encuentran en lengua inglesa.]

Una obra de tal envergadura no habría sido posible sin las colaboraciones de muchos autores de todo el mundo. Les estamos profundamente agradecidos por su dedicación desinteresada a la formación neurológica. También queremos agradecer el ánimo y la sabiduría de Susan Pioli, de Elsevier, que fue una participante activa en cada fase de desarrollo del libro. Jennifer Shreiner, Senior Development Editor de Elsevier, fue la persona clave en la coordinación de este proyecto. Además, damos las gracias a Joan Sinclair, Production Manager, y Linnea Hermanson, Production Editor, sin cuya energía y eficiencia no se habría alcanzado la alta calidad de la producción y la rapidez de la publicación de esta obra. Por último, agradecemos profundamente las contribuciones de nuestros lectores, cuyos comentarios respecto a *Neurología clínica* y la página web han sido muy útiles para mejorar nuestros objetivos educativos.

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