Book & New Media Reviews

Hyperalgesia: Molecular Mechanisms and Clinical Implications

Kay Brune, Hermann O. Handwerker (Eds). Progress in Pain Research and Management, Volume 30. IASP Press, 2004. 397 pages. \$89.00 US. ISBN 0-931092-50-7

This publication from the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) is based on the 2003 IASP Research Symposium held September 6-9 in Erlangen, Germany where the two editors come from. At this meeting, researchers from all over the world discussed the latest knowledge and hypotheses on the mechanisms of hyperalgesia.

The present volume consists of 26 contributions submitted by renown researchers such as Fernando Cervero (McGill University). The book is organized in five sections. The first section defines hyperexcitability and the important mechanisms behind it. The second section presents new developments in molecular research. The third one describes nociceptor plasticity while the fourth section presents the role of the central nervous system in hyperalgesia. Finally, the fifth section discusses the role of the brain in hyperalgesia as revealed in functional imaging. Each section is preceded by a short introduction by one of the editors.

Overall, this new volume in the IASP series, dealing with hyperalgesia as a fascinating consequence of the plasticity of the nociceptive nervous system, is extremely interesting and will be of great use to basic scientists but health care professionals dealing with pain states may also enjoy reading it.

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