Rehabilitation

HUMAN BRAIN FUNCTION

Assessment and Rehabilitation

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Gerald Goldstein, *VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and University of Pittsburgh*
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Erin D. Bigler, *Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah*

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Edited by

Gerald Goldstein

*VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
and University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

and

Sue R. Beers

*School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

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Contributors

EDMOND AYYAPPA, *Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 5901 East 7th Street, Long Beach, California 90822*

SUE R. BEERS, *Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, 3811 O'Hara Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213*

LYNETTE S. CHANDLER, *School of Occupational and Physical Therapy, University of Puget Sound, 1500 North Warner Street, Tacoma, Washington 98416*

ANNE-LISE CHRISTENSEN, *Center for Rehabilitation of Brain Injury, University of Copenhagen, Amager 88 Njalsgade, DK-2300, Copenhagen S, Denmark*

MARTHA CLENDENIN, *Nova Southeastern University, Physical Therapy Program, 3200 S. University Drive, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33328; and Science Center, PO Box 100154, Gainesville, Florida 32610-0154*

PATRICK J. DOYLE, *VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Highland Drive Division, 7180 Highland Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206-1297*

GERALD GOLDSTEIN, *VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Highland Drive Division (151R), 7180 Highland Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206-1297*

WILLIAM DREW GOUVIER, *Department of Psychology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803-5501*

MICHAEL F. GREEN, *UCLA-Neuropsychiatric Institute and Hospital, 760 Westwood Plaza (C9-420), Los Angeles, California 90024-4344*

PAUL D. HANSEN, *School of Occupational and Physical Therapy, University of Puget Sound, 1500 North Warner Street, Tacoma, Washington 98416*

SHIRLEY P. HOEMAN, *Health Systems Consultation, 6 Camp Washington Road, Long Valley, New Jersey 07853; and School of Nursing, Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut 06430*

MARGO B. HOLM, *Occupational Therapy Program, College Misericordia, 301 Lake Street, Dallas, Pennsylvania 18612*

LYNDA J. KATZ, *Landmark College, Rural Route 1, Box 1000, Putney, Vermont 05346*

ROBERT S. KERN, *West Los Angeles VA Medical Center (B116AR), 11301 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90073*

KATHYE E. LIGHT, *University of Florida, College of Health Professions, Department of Physical Therapy, Health Science Center, PO Box 100154, Gainesville, Florida 32610-0154*

MICHAEL McCUE, *Center for Applied Neuropsychology, First and Market Building, 100 First Avenue, Suite 900A, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222*

JUDITH R. O'JILE, *Department of Psychology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803-5501*

JACQUELIN PERRY, *Medical Consultant, Pathokinesiology, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, 7601 E. Imperial Highway, Downey, California 90242*

MICHAEL PRAMUKA, *James A. Haley Veterans Administration Hospital, 13000 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33612*

MARIE A. REILLY, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Allied Health Sciences, Division of Physical Therapy, CB#7135, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7135*

JOAN C. ROGERS, *Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, 3811 O'Hara Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213*

LAURIE M. RYAN, *Department of Psychology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803-5501*

THOMAS W. TEASDALE, *Psychological Laboratory, University of Copenhagen, Amager 88 Njalsgade, DK-2300, Copenhagen S, Denmark*

Preface

This volume is the fourth in a series that is dedicated to the topic of human brain function. The three previous volumes present an in-depth discussion of assessment procedures of the two specialties of neuroimaging and neuropsychology. This book, on the other hand, is focused on assessing brain function as it affects various aspects of the patient's capabilities from the perspectives of the rehabilitation specialties. These specialties generally assess brain function from a broader perspective than neuroimaging or even neuropsychology. That is, they are interested in how the brain interacts with the environment and impacts the patient's ability to manage practical aspects of his or her daily life.

The interest in rehabilitation and habilitation (i.e., treatment efforts directed toward maximizing rather than normalizing function) has grown extensively over the last 20 years, particularly with recent advances in technology and with increased attention directed to the quality of life of patients who present with various neuropsychiatric and medical illnesses. Multidisciplinary assessment procedures and collaborative efforts to enhance rehabilitation outcome are also becoming increasingly important as the various disciplines struggle to provide the most effective services within the economic restraints of the current health care delivery system. In the hopes of fostering future collaboration among the disciplines, Part II of this volume includes descriptions of the various rehabilitation specialties, including the occupational, physical, and speech and language therapies, as well as specialized areas of geriatric rehabilitation and rehabilitation nursing. Part III discusses the assessment methods that are applied to the evaluation of everyday functioning, specific sensory and motor functions, and both internal and external prostheses. Finally, in Part IV, clinical issues are addressed with respect to rehabilitation efforts after psychiatric and developmental disabilities and head trauma.

As the editors, we would like to thank our colleagues in neuropsychology and the rehabilitation specialties for their contributions to this unique multidisciplinary volume. It is hoped that the concepts and ideas presented here will lead to further collaborative efforts among the disciplines, with the ultimate outcome being the enhancement of the quality of care of the patients we share. Special acknowledgment also goes to Drs. Antonio Puente and Erin Bigler, who as series

editors helped to conceptualize this collaborative effort across the specialties. Finally, we wish to express our appreciation for the continued support and encouragement of our editors at Plenum Publishing, Eliot Werner and Mariclaire Cloutier.

Sue R. Beers
Gerald Goldstein

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