

Preface

The last decade witnessed vast scientific advances in our understanding of molecular mechanisms of the inflammatory cascade involved in pathogenesis of diverse neurological disorders. Endothelial cells, activated leukocytes, resident immune cells within the central nervous system (CNS), and many classes of inflammatory mediators, especially chemokines and cytokines, are the major components of this complex and largely unsolved pathological puzzle. Through innumerable experiments, we have learned more about the role of each one of these players in the course of the inflammatory response, and have become able to apply some of our knowledge toward the development of more effective treatments with fewer adverse effects.

The objective of *Inflammatory Disorders of the Nervous System: Pathogenesis, Immunology, and Clinical Management* is to provide readers with a highly detailed review of the basic principles of neuroinflammation and extensive updates on the latest findings on common neuroinflammatory disorders. Emerging concepts in the field of inflammation such as “endothelial and leukocyte microparticles” and “gene microarray technology” are introduced and provide important links between CNS and general inflammation processes. Our book should be of interest to a broad range of both basic research and clinical scientists with a core interest in neuroinflammation. It is our impression that neuroinflammation is among the most rapidly growing fields in inflammation research, and our knowledge of new developments in this field will enable scientists and clinicians around the globe to better diagnose and treat some of these untreatable and exigent neurological conditions.

We are greatly indebted to the contributors, who made *Inflammatory Disorders of the Nervous System: Pathogenesis, Immunology, and Clinical Management* a reality by providing their superior knowledge and expertise in this rapidly developing field. We are also grateful to Richard Lansing, Robin Weisberg, and Damien DeFrances of Humana Press who provided their invaluable editorial expertise and technical advice for the publication of this book. We hope that our scientist colleagues find this book a useful resource in their unrelenting research into the mechanisms of inflammation.

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