

# Preface

Stroke remains the fourth most common cause of death in North America and an increasingly common cause in low- and middle-income countries. As death from some types declines due to improved care, the burden of disability increases. Much attention is paid to paralysis and the more obvious physical disabilities these patients incur, but we are becoming increasingly aware that the cognitive and neurobehavioral complications are important contributors to stroke morbidity and even to functional neurological recovery. Physicians and health care providers have been more focused on saving lives as well, but as mortality declines, the details and quality of life of the survivor are becoming more important. Furthermore, these deficits actually overshadow focal neurological impairment in some types of stroke such as subarachnoid hemorrhage.

I am a neurosurgeon and my coeditor is a cognitive neuroscientist. This book was conceived when we began working together and finding that we were teaching each other about our respective understandings of disability after stroke. We noted that there was no book that covered the broad general topic of neurobehavioral and cognitive function after stroke that would be appropriate for the wide range of health care professionals that need to know something about this field. To that end, we have assembled an up-to-date overview of the cognitive and neurobehavioral consequences of stroke.

Who needs to know about these deficits? Everyone who cares for patients with stroke should be aware of and have some understanding of these effects of stroke, and for good reason. As we learn from this book, early treatment of depression and recognition of posttraumatic stress disorder are key to understanding disability and recovery after stroke. There are many other reasons that await the reader of this book.

Given its increasing importance, and the broad audience including neurologists, neurosurgeons, psychiatrists, and other medical doctors, as well as physical, speech and occupational therapists, nurses, and psychologists to name a few, a broad summary of the key issues was needed. The goal of this book is to provide a current understanding of each of the major cognitive/neurobehavioral effects of stroke. It is not meant to delve into excessive detail but to give the reader a broad and up-to-date understanding

of the field. Because we hope our readers will be from varied disciplines, we include chapters on the epidemiology, general treatment, imaging, and an update on some stroke clinical trials. We solicited authors who were leaders in their respective fields and who can provide the current state of the particular topic of their chapter.

We both learned a lot by reading this book. We hope you will also, and will find it useful.

Toronto, ON, Canada

Tom A. Schweizer, Ph.D.  
R. Loch Macdonald, M.D., Ph.D.



<http://www.springer.com/978-1-4614-7671-9>

The Behavioral Consequences of Stroke

Schweizer, T.A.; Macdonald, L. (Eds.)

2014, XVIII, 349 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-4614-7671-9