

**CURRENT  
MANAGEMENT IN  
CHILD  
NEUROLOGY**

**THIRD EDITION**



# CURRENT MANAGEMENT IN CHILD NEUROLOGY

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**BERNARD L. MARIA, MD, MBA**

Jeffrey Edwin Gilliam Chair and Professor of Pediatrics and Neurosciences  
Executive Director, the Charles P. Darby Children's Research Institute  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina

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# CONTRIBUTORS

HODA Z. ABDEL-HAMID, MD  
Department of Pediatric Neurology  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

HEATHER K. ALVAREZ, MS  
Department of Psychology  
Ohio University  
Athens, Ohio

JOHN ALVIN, PhD  
Department of Physiology and Pharmacology  
University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine  
and Pharmacy  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

STEPHEN ASHWAL, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
Loma Linda University  
Loma Linda, California

JOHN C. ANDREFSKY, MD  
Department of Neurosurgery and Neurology  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation  
Cleveland, Ohio

ANTHONY M. AVELLINO, MD  
Department of Neurological Surgery  
University of Washington School of Medicine  
Seattle, Washington

JAMES F. BALE JR, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of Utah School of Medicine  
Salt Lake City, Utah

BRENDA L. BANWELL, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of Toronto  
Toronto, Ontario

RUSSELL A. BARKLEY, PhD  
Department of Psychiatry  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina

ANITA L. BELMAN, MD, MS  
Department of Neurology  
State University of New York School of Medicine  
Stony Brook, New York

RENA BIRNBAUM, MSc, OTR  
School of Physical and Occupational Therapy  
McGill University  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

THOMAS A. BLONDIS, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of Chicago Children's Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

JUDITH S. BLUVSTEIN, MD  
Neuropediatrics  
FLENI  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

JOHN B. BODENSTEINER, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of Arizona  
Phoenix, Arizona

EUGEN J. BOLTSHAUSER, MD  
Department of Pediatric Neurology  
University Children's Hospital  
Zurich, Switzerland

BLAISE F. D. BOURGEOIS, MD  
Department of Neurology  
Harvard Medical School  
Boston, Massachusetts

LAWRENCE W. BROWN, MD  
Department of Neurology and Pediatrics  
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

R. CLARK BROWN, MD, PhD  
Department of Pediatrics  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina

RONALD T. BROWN, PhD, ABPP  
Department of Public Health  
Temple University  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

ROGER A. BRUMBACK, MD  
Department of Pathology  
Creighton University Medical Center  
Omaha, Nebraska

JANICE E. BRUNSTROM, MD  
Department of Neurology  
Washington University School of Medicine  
St. Louis, Missouri

CAROL S. CAMFIELD, MD, FRCPC  
Department of Pediatrics  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

PETER R. CAMFIELD, MD, FRCPC  
Department of Pediatrics  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

BENJAMIN S. CARSON SR, MD  
Department of Neurological Surgery  
The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions  
Baltimore, Maryland

DAVE F. CLARKE, MD  
Department of Neurology  
University of Texas–Houston  
Houston, Texas

BRUCE H. COHEN, MD  
Department of Pediatric Neurology  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation  
Cleveland, Ohio

WILLIAM I. COHEN, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

ANNE M. COMI, MD  
Department of Neurology  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland

PAOLO CURATOLO, MD  
Department of Neuroscience  
Tor Vergata University of Rome  
Rome, Italy

LINDA DE MEIRLEIR, MD, PhD  
Department of Pediatrics  
Free University of Brussels  
Brussels, Belgium

WILLIAM DEMYER, MD  
Department of Neurology  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
Indianapolis, Indiana

FRANCIS J. DIMARIO JR, MD, FAAP  
Department of Pediatrics and Neurology  
University of Connecticut  
Farmington, Connecticut

JOSEPH M. DOOLEY, MB, BCH, FRCPC  
Department of Pediatrics  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

MICHAEL DUCHOWNY, MD  
Department of Neurology  
University of Miami School of Medicine  
Miami, Florida

DAVID W. DUNN, MD  
Department of Psychiatry  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
Indianapolis, Indiana

LEON S. DURE IV, MD  
Department of Pediatrics and Neurology  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Birmingham, Alabama

TERENCE S. EDGAR, MD, FAAP, FAACPDM, FAAEM  
Department of Pediatric Neurology  
St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

DOROTHEA JENKINS EICHER, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina

RICHARD G. ELLENBOGEN, MD  
Department of Neurosurgery  
University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington

CYNTHIA R. ELLIS, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, Nebraska

LYDIA EVIATAR, MD  
 Department of Pediatrics  
 Schneider Children's Hospital of LIJ Health System  
 New Hyde Park, New York

AVIVA FATTAL-VALEVSKI, MD  
 Department of Pediatrics  
 Tel-Aviv University  
 Tel-Aviv, Israel

FRANCIS M. FILLOUX, MD  
 Departments of Pediatrics and Neurology  
 University of Utah School of Medicine  
 Salt Lake City, Utah

JACK M. FLETCHER, PhD  
 Department of Pediatrics  
 University of Texas Health Science Center–Houston  
 Houston, Texas

JOHN M. FREEMAN, MD  
 Department of Pediatrics and Neurology  
 Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
 Baltimore, Maryland

AUDREY GALLUZZO, PhD  
 Department of Neuropsychology  
 Université de Liège  
 Liège, Belgium

JACK GLADSTEIN, MD  
 Department of Pediatrics and Neurology  
 University of Maryland  
 Baltimore, Maryland

DAVID GRIESEMER, MD  
 Department of Neurosciences  
 Medical University of South Carolina  
 Charleston, South Carolina

STAVROS M. HADJILOIZOU, MD  
 Department of Neurology  
 Harvard Medical School  
 Boston, Massachusetts

ANDREW D. HERSHEY, MD, PhD  
 Department of Pediatrics  
 University of Cincinnati College of Medicine  
 Cincinnati, Ohio

ALAN HILL, MD, PhD  
 Department of Pediatrics  
 University of British Columbia  
 Vancouver, British Columbia

REBECCA N. ICHORD, MD  
 Department of Neurology and Pediatrics  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

JAMES H. JOHNSON, PhD  
 Department of Clinical and Health Psychology  
 University of Florida  
 Gainesville, Florida

RAYMOND S. KANDT, MD  
 Department of Pediatrics  
 Wake Forest University  
 Winston-Salem, North Carolina

ROBERT A. KEATING, MD  
 Department of Neurosurgery  
 George Washington University  
 Washington, District of Columbia

EILEEN KENNEDY, MSc, PT  
 School of Physical Therapy  
 McGill University  
 Montreal, Quebec

STEPHEN L. KINSMAN, MD  
 Department of Pediatrics  
 University of Maryland School of Medicine  
 Baltimore, Maryland

FENELLA J. KIRKHAM, MD  
 Neurosciences Unit  
 University College of London  
 London, United Kingdom

SUSAN KOH, MD  
 Department of Pediatrics  
 University of California at Los Angeles  
 Los Angeles, California

EDWIN H. KOLODNY, MD  
 Department of Neurology  
 New York University School of Medicine  
 New York, New York

ERIC H. KOSSOFF, MD  
 Department of Pediatrics and Neurology and Pediatrics  
 Johns Hopkins Medical Institution  
 Baltimore Maryland

EDWARD H. KOVNAR, MD  
 Department of Neurology  
 Washington University School of Medicine  
 St. Louis, Missouri

MARY C. KRAL, PhD  
 Department of Pediatrics  
 Medical University of South Carolina  
 Charleston, South Carolina

WILLIAM G. KRONENBERGER, PhD  
 Department of Psychiatry  
 Indiana University School of Medicine  
 Indianapolis, Indiana

ANGELA LAROSA, MD, MS  
Department of Pediatrics  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina

STEVEN M. LEBER, MD, PhD  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of Michigan Medical School  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

MACIEJ LESNIAK, MD  
Department of Neurosurgery  
University of Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois

LAWRENCE M. LEVINE, MD  
Department of Ophthalmology  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida

DONALD W. LEWIS, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
Eastern Virginia Medical School  
Norfolk, Virginia

CHRIS LOFTIS, PhD  
American Psychological Association  
Washington, District of Columbia

MERYL D. LUALLIN, BA  
Sullivan/Luallin Inc.  
San Diego, California

G. REID LYON, PhD  
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland

TOBEY J. MACDONALD, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
George Washington University  
Washington, District of Columbia

DAUNE L. MACGREGOR, MD, FRCPC  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of Toronto  
Toronto, Ontario

MICHELLE M. MACIAS, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina

KENNETH J. MACK, MD, PhD  
Department of Neurology  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minnesota

ANNETTE MAJNEMER, PhD, OT  
Faculty of Medicine  
Mc Gill University  
Montreal, Quebec

ERIKA L. MANNING, PhD  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina

BERNARD L. MARIA, MD, MBA  
Department of Pediatrics and Neuro Sciences  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina

LINDSAY E. MCALISTER, BA  
Department of Clinical and Health Psychology  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida

WILLIAM M. MCMAHON, MD  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Utah School of Medicine  
Salt Lake City, Utah

JOHN H. MENKES, MD  
Beverly Hills, California

G. S. MILLER, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of Oklahoma  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

JONATHAN W. MINK, MD, PhD, FAAP  
Department of Neurology  
University of Rochester  
Rochester, New York

HARLEY B. MORGAN, MD  
University of Oklahoma  
Department of Pediatrics  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

JOHN L. MORIARITY, MD  
Department of Neurosurgery  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
Baltimore, Maryland

LESLIE A. MORRISON, MD  
University of New Mexico School of Medicine  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

SOLOMON L. MOSHÉ, MD  
Department of Neurology, Neuroscience, and Pediatrics  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University  
Bronx, New York

DENISE M. MULVIHILL, MD  
Department of Radiology  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina

TANYA K. MURPHY, MD  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida

VINODH NARAYANAN, MD  
Department of Pediatrics and Neurology  
University of Arizona College of Medicine  
Phoenix, Arizona

MAUREEN R. NELSON, MD  
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

MATHEW NGUYEN, MD  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida

MICHAEL A. NIGRO, DO, FACN  
Departments of Neurology and Pediatrics  
Wayne State University School of Medicine  
Detroit, Michigan  
Department of Osteopathic Medicine  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan

CHRISTIAN NUTTIN, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
Centre Hospitalier de Luxembourg  
Luxembourg, Luxembourg

LORI L. OLSON, BS  
Department of Pediatrics  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina

ROGER J. PACKER, MD  
Department of Neurology  
George Washington University  
Washington, District of Columbia  
Department of Neurosurgery  
University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, Virginia

MICHAEL J. PAINTER, MD  
Department of Pediatrics and Neurology  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

JOHN M. PELLOCK, MD  
Department of Neurology  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Richmond, Virginia

ALAN K. PERCY, MD  
Department of Pediatrics, Neurology, Genetics and Neurobiology  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Birmingham, Alabama

LINDA PFIFFNER, PhD  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of California  
San Francisco, California

PAUL H. PHILLIPS, MD  
Department of Ophthalmology  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
Little Rock, Arkansas

SCOTT W. POWERS, PhD, ABPP  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine  
Cincinnati, Ohio

GUSTAVO PRADILLA, MD  
Department of Neurosurgery  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
Baltimore, Maryland

STEVEN K. READER, MS  
Department of Clinical and Health Psychology  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida

KATHLEEN M. REILLY, PHARM.D  
Pharmacy Services Shands at the University of Florida  
University of Florida College of Pharmacy  
Gainesville, Florida

ELKE H. ROLAND, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, British Columbia

JAMES E. RUBENSTEIN, MD  
Department of Pediatrics and Neurology  
Johns Hopkins Medical Institution  
Baltimore, Maryland

ROBERT S. RUST, MD  
Department of Neurology  
University of Virginia School of Medicine  
Charlottesville, Virginia

MICHAEL S. SALMAN, MB, BS, MRCP, DCH, BSc, MSc, PhD  
Department of Pediatrics  
Winnipeg Children's Hospital  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

EMMANUEL SCALAIS, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
Centre Hospitalier de Luxembourg  
Luxembourg, Luxembourg

G. BRADLEY SCHAEFFER, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, Nebraska

BRADLEY L SCHLAGGAR, MD, PhD  
Department of Neurology, Pediatrics, Anatomy and  
Neurobiology, and Radiology  
Washington University School of Medicine  
St. Louis, Missouri

NINA FELICE SCHOR, MD, PhD  
Department of Pediatrics, Neurology, and Pharmacology  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

THOMAS J. SELVA, MD, FAAP  
Department of Child Health  
University of Missouri-Columbia Health Sciences Center  
Columbia, Missouri

RENEE A. SHELLHAAS, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

MICHAEL SHEVELL, MD, CM, FRCPC  
Department of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Pediatrics  
McGill University  
Montreal, Quebec

SHLOMO SHINNAR, MD, PhD  
Department of Neurology and Pediatrics  
Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
Bronx, New York

K. SIVAKUMAR, MD  
Department of Neurology  
University of Arizona College of Medicine  
Phoenix, Arizona

EVE G. SPRATT, MD  
Department of Psychiatry and Pediatrics  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina

JOHN B. P. STEPHENSON, MA, DM, FRCP, HON. FRCPCH  
Department of Child Health  
University of Glasgow  
Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

CYNTHIA CUPIT SWENSON, PhD  
Department of Psychiatry  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina

RAFAEL J. TAMARGO, MD, FACS  
Department of Neurosurgery  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
Baltimore, Maryland

QUOC-ANH THAI, MD  
Department of Neurosurgery  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
Baltimore, Maryland

ANNE H. TILTON, MD  
Department of Neurology and Pediatrics  
Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center  
New Orleans, Louisiana

R. WILLIAM TRELOAR, RRA, MBA  
Department of Clinical Resource Management  
Shands Healthcare  
Gainesville, Florida

ROBERT P. TURNER, MD  
Department of Neurology, Pediatrics, Neurological Surgery, and  
Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Epidemiology  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina

EILEEN P. G. VINING, PG, MD  
John M. Freeman Pediatric Epilepsy Center  
Johns Hopkins Medical Institution  
Baltimore, Maryland

LYNN M. WEGNER, MD  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

JAMES W. WHELESS, MD  
Department of Neurology  
University of Texas–Houston  
Houston, Texas

MAX WIZNITZER, MD  
Department of Pediatrics and Neurology  
Case Western Reserve University  
Cleveland, Ohio

PAUL S. WOLF, MD  
Department of Pediatric Neurology  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

MARCY YONKER, MD  
Department of Pediatrics and Neurology  
Thomas Jefferson Medical College  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

G. ELLIS ZIEL, BS  
Department of Pediatrics  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina

# PREFACE

The third edition of *Current Management in Child Neurology* aims to provide busy practitioners with standard-of-care reviews on the evaluation and treatment of the most common complaints or conditions that relate to nervous system disorders and dysfunction. The book is designed to supplement standard textbooks that provide detailed information on etiology, pathogenesis, and therapeutic controversies in pediatric clinical neuroscience.

This edition contains 98 chapters divided into three sections written by highly respected leaders in the field. In the first section, "Clinical Practice Trends," the reader will find data on the most common outpatient and inpatient conditions, insights into educational trends, pearls on conducting a meaningful neurologic examination, information on key Web sites, and advice on excelling at the art of medicine. In "The Office Visit," subheadings are organized according to the frequency of conditions presenting in the office or clinic setting. The section offers management reviews in headache, seizures, epilepsy, neurobehavioral disorders, school readiness, developmental delay, and a range of other conditions. The final section, "The Hospitalized Child," features 22 chapters addressing current therapy issues for trauma, meningitis and encephalitis, injury to the preterm and term brains, status epilepticus, and a host of other conditions associated with hospital care. Several chapters were added to this new edition, including selections on current pharmacotherapy for migraine, epilepsy, and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, each with practitioner-friendly tables on drugs; one chapter was added on home management of breakthrough seizures.

When I first conceived of *Current Management in Child Neurology*, I envisioned a book dedicated to child neurology that would extract current therapy and management wisdom from some of the best people in the field, each balancing hard facts with the soft touch of experience, to produce a valuable and succinct state-of-the-art adjunct to clinical

practice. What I did not foresee was the popularity of copies that trainees and caregivers printed out from the CD-ROM accompanying the first two editions and the ability to link to Web sites and access the National Library of Medicine introduced in the last edition. It seems our attention span for learning is shorter than ever, and the ease of obtaining information on the Internet has created the new problem of managing large volumes of data. It is hoped that this edition will play a part in enabling high-level triage of information and its translation to modern practice. In addition, the "Suggested Readings" and "Practitioner and Patient Resources" sections of each chapter help trainees and caregivers "do their homework" about relevant conditions.

In the years since the first edition was published, the remarkable pace of medical discoveries and their application to clinical practice has continued unabated. In fact, I often wonder how it will be possible to keep up with the increasing incline and speed of the treadmill, given the graying of child neurology and the strong driving forces of subspecialization within our field. The third edition builds on the success of the first two editions by offering 46 succinct updated reviews of superb second edition chapters by senior authors, 37 reviews by new authors, and 15 reviews by new authors on new topics.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to a terrific group of authors for sharing their knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes in caring for children with nervous system problems. I would also like to thank my superb editorial assistant Melanie Fridl Ross, MSJ, ELS, and my dedicated research assistants Lori Olson and Ellis Ziel. Finally, I would like to recognize the publisher, Brian Decker, for his support of Child Neurology, for staying one step ahead of the competition in the world of medical publishing, and for reminding me that imitation is the greatest form of flattery.

Bernard L. Maria, MD, MBA

To my primary mentor John M. Freeman  
for his love of children, for his passion for excellence,  
and for his dedication to his academic children and grandchildren.

To children, our model teachers.

# CONTENTS

Preface .....	xi	14. Current Pharmacotherapy for Pediatric Migraine .....	71
<b>SECTION 1. CLINICAL PRACTICE TRENDS</b>		<i>B.L. Maria and K.M. Reilly</i>	
1. Common Neurologic Complaints and Conditions .....	3	<b>SEIZURES AND EPILEPSY</b>	
<i>B.L. Maria and R.W. Treloar</i>		15. What is Epilepsy? .....	79
2. Neurologic Complaints and Conditions in Primary Care Pediatrics .....	9	<i>P.R. Camfield and C.S. Camfield</i>	
<i>T.J. Selva</i>		16. Febrile Seizures.....	83
3. The Neurologic Examination .....	14	<i>P.S. Wolf and S. Shinnar</i>	
<i>D.A. Griesemer</i>		17. First Unprovoked Seizure .....	89
4. Education of General Neurologists, Pediatricians, and Medical Students in Child Neurology.....	22	<i>J.S. Bluvstein and S.L. Moshé</i>	
<i>R.A. Brumback</i>		18. Staring Spells .....	93
5. The Internet in Child Neurology .....	25	<i>J.M. Dooley</i>	
<i>K.J. Mack and S.M. Leber</i>		19. Partial Seizures .....	99
6. Excelling at the Art of Medicine .....	32	<i>J.M. Pellock and M. Duchowny</i>	
<i>M.D. Luallin</i>		20. Generalized Seizures .....	105
<b>SECTION 2. THE OFFICE VISIT</b>		<i>S.M. Hadjiloizou and B.F.D. Bourgeois</i>	
<b>HEADACHE</b>		21. First-Choice Antiepileptic Drugs .....	117
7. Migraine in Children and Adolescents .....	39	<i>J.M. Pellock</i>	
<i>N.F. Schor</i>		22. Home Management of Breakthrough Seizures .....	129
8. Migraine Variants and Mimics.....	43	<i>H.B. Morgan and G.S. Miller</i>	
<i>E.H. Kovnar</i>		23. Infantile Spasms (West's Syndrome) .....	134
9. Abortive Therapy for Migraine .....	49	<i>P. Curatolo</i>	
<i>M. Yonker</i>		24. Recurrent Seizures .....	139
10. Preventive Therapy for Migraine .....	53	<i>J.W. Wheless and D.F. Clarke</i>	
<i>D.W. Lewis</i>		25. Discontinuing Antiepileptic Drugs in Childhood Epilepsy.....	148
11. Chronic Daily Headache.....	58	<i>P.R. Camfield, C.S. Camfield, and R.A. Shellhaas</i>	
<i>K. J. Mack</i>		26. Paroxysmal, Nonepileptic Disorders of Childhood.....	151
12. Psychosocial Aspects of Pediatric Headache .....	64	<i>R.P. Turner</i>	
<i>J. Gladstein</i>		27. The Ketogenic Diet .....	159
13. Biofeedback for Childhood Migraine.....	67	<i>J.M. Freeman, E.P.G. Vining, E.H. Kossoff, and J.E. Rubenstein</i>	
<i>S.W. Powers and A.D. Hershey</i>			

28. Pediatric Surgery and Cortical Stimulation .....	164	47. Down Syndrome .....	297
<i>S.P. Koh</i>		<i>W.I. Cohen</i>	
29. Pediatric Epilepsy: Comorbidity and Quality of Life .....	169	48. Rett Syndrome.....	304
<i>R.P. Turner</i>		<i>A.K. Percy</i>	
30. Current Pharmacotherapy for Seizures and Epilepsy .....	174	49. Inborn Errors of Metabolism.....	311
<i>B.L. Maria and K.M. Reilly</i>		<i>L. De Meirleir</i>	
NEUROBEHAVIORAL DISORDERS			
31. Clinical Evaluation of Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder .....	182	50. Autistic Spectrum Disorders .....	317
<i>R.A. Barkley</i>		<i>M. Wiznitzer</i>	
32. ADHD Comorbidity and Mimicry: Implications for Assessment and Treatment .....	192	51. Child Abuse and Neglect: Issues for Neurologists.....	323
<i>J.H. Johnson, H.K. Alvarez, and C. Loftis</i>		<i>E.G. Spratt and C.C. Swenson</i>	
33. Behavioral and Self-Regulatory Management of ADHD .....	198	52. Rehabilitation: The Role of Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy.....	332
<i>T.A. Blondis and L. Pffnner</i>		<i>A. Majnemer, R. Birnbaum, and E. Kennedy</i>	
34. Individual Child- and Family-Based Therapies for ADHD .....	204	OTHER NEUROLOGIC COMPLAINTS AND CONDITIONS	
<i>J.H. Johnson, L.E. McAlister, and S.K. Reader</i>		53. Small, Large, or Abnormally Shaped Head .....	338
35. Current Pharmacotherapy for Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder .....	210	<i>W. DeMyer</i>	
<i>B.L. Maria, A. LaRosa, and K.M. Reilly</i>		54. Sleep Disorders.....	344
SCHOOL READINESS			
36. Is My Child Ready for School? .....	216	<i>L.W. Brown</i>	
<i>D.L. MacGregor</i>		55. Breath-Holding Spells.....	353
37. An Introduction to Pediatric Neuropsychological Evaluation.....	219	<i>W. DeMyer</i>	
<i>M.C. Kral and R.T. Brown</i>		56. HIV-1/AIDS in Infants and Children .....	356
38. Speech and Language Development and Disorders .....	225	<i>A.L. Belman</i>	
<i>M.M. Macias and L.M. Wegner</i>		57. Bell's Palsy.....	366
39. Learning Disabilities .....	232	<i>G.E. Ziel and B.L. Maria</i>	
<i>J.M. Fletcher and G.R. Lyon</i>		58. Management of Dizziness in Children .....	370
40. Developmental Dyspraxia .....	240	<i>L. Eviatar</i>	
<i>E. Scalais, C. Nuttin, and A. Galluzzo</i>		59. Fainting and Syncope .....	377
DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY			
41. Diagnostic Approach to Developmental Delay .....	246	<i>J.B.P. Stephenson</i>	
<i>M. Shevell</i>		60. Spinal Muscular Atrophy.....	385
42. Cerebral Palsy.....	251	<i>M.A. Nigro</i>	
<i>J.E. Brunstrom and A.H. Tilton</i>		61. Hereditary Neuropathy.....	391
43. Spasticity.....	257	<i>K. Sivakumar and V. Narayanan</i>	
<i>T.S. Edgar</i>		62. Neuromuscular Junction Disorders.....	399
44. Degenerative Disorders.....	265	<i>L.A. Morrison</i>	
<i>E.H. Kolodny and A. Fattal-Valevski</i>		63. Muscular Dystrophy and Myopathy .....	404
45. Mitochondrial Cytopathies .....	277	<i>T.S. Edgar</i>	
<i>B.H. Cohen</i>		64. Ataxia, Clumsiness, and Tremor .....	414
46. Mental Retardation .....	285	<i>E.J. Boltshauser</i>	
<i>J.B. Bodensteiner, C.R. Ellis, and G.B. Schaefer</i>		65. Tic Disorders .....	419
		<i>F.M. Filloux and W.M. McMahon</i>	
		66. Paroxysmal Movement Disorders in Childhood.....	427
		<i>J.W. Mink and L.S. Dure IV</i>	
		67. Chorea .....	432
		<i>B.L. Schlaggar</i>	
		68. Visual System Problems.....	436
		<i>L.M. Levine</i>	
		69. Childhood Depression.....	442
		<i>T.K. Murphy and M. Nguyen</i>	
		70. Conversion Reaction.....	450
		<i>W.G. Kronenberger and D.W. Dunn</i>	

71. Neurofibromatoses.....456	85. Altered States of Consciousness.....551
<i>R.S. Kandt</i>	<i>B.H. Cohen and J.C. Andrefsky</i>
72. Tuberous Sclerosis Complex .....462	86. Increased Intracranial Pressure.....563
<i>F.J. DiMario Jr.</i>	<i>A.M. Avellino and B.S. Carson Sr.</i>
73. Sturge-Weber Syndrome.....470	87. Evaluation and Management of Acute
<i>B.L. Maria, L.L. Olson and A.M. Comi</i>	Headache .....569
74. Hypomelanosis of Ito .....476	<i>R.S. Rust</i>
<i>L.L. Olson and B.L. Maria</i>	88. Brain Tumors .....577
75. Brainstem and Cerebellar Malformations .....479	<i>R.J. Packer, T.J. MacDonald, and R.A. Keating</i>
<i>M.S. Salman and B.L. Maria</i>	89. Pseudotumor Cerebri: Idiopathic Intracranial
76. Acquired Demyelination of the Central	Hypertension.....589
Nervous System.....486	<i>P.H. Phillips</i>
<i>B.L. Banwell</i>	90. Central Nervous System Vascular
<b>SECTION 3. THE HOSPITALIZED CHILD</b>	Malformations in Pediatric Patients .....595
77. Neonatal Seizures.....497	<i>Q. Thai, J.L. Moriarity, and R.J. Tamargo</i>
<i>H.Z. Abdel-Hamid, J. Alvin, and M.J. Painter</i>	91. Pediatric Intracranial Aneurysms .....606
78. Status Epilepticus.....503	<i>G. Pradilla, M.S. Lesniak, and R.J. Tamargo</i>
<i>J.W. Wheless and D.F. Clarke</i>	92. Stroke and Cerebrovascular Disease .....613
79. Meningitis and Encephalitis.....509	<i>F.J. Kirkham</i>
<i>J.F. Bale</i>	93. Vasculitis.....624
80. Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injuries	<i>E.H. Roland</i>
in Children .....515	94. Guillain Barré Syndrome.....630
<i>J.H. Menkes and R.G. Ellenbogen</i>	<i>L.A. Morrison</i>
81. Neonatal Hypotonia .....528	95. Myelomeningocele .....634
<i>A. Hill</i>	<i>S.L. Kinsman</i>
82. Injury to the Preterm Brain.....535	96. Common Neurologic Complications in
<i>D.J. Eicher and D.M. Mulvihill</i>	Sickle Cell Disease.....640
83. Injury to the Term Brain .....541	<i>R.C. Brown</i>
<i>R.N. Ichord</i>	97. Management in Pain.....645
84. Brachial Plexus Palsy.....546	<i>E. Manning and B.L. Maria</i>
<i>M.R. Nelson</i>	98. Brain Death in Children .....653
	<i>S. Ashwal</i>

