

THE HUMAN NERVOUS SYSTEM

THIRD EDITION

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Edited by

JÜRGEN K. MAI

*Institute for Anatomy, Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf,
Düsseldorf, Germany*

GEORGE PAXINOS

Neuroscience Research Australia, Sydney, Australia



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Academic Press is an imprint of Elsevier



Academic Press is an imprint of Elsevier
32 Jamestown Road, London NW1 7BY, UK
225 Wyman Street, Waltham, MA 02451, USA
525 B Street, Suite 1800, San Diego, CA 92101-4495, USA

Third edition 2012

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British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

ISBN: 978-0-12-374236-0

For information on all Academic Press publications
visit our website at www.elsevierdirect.com

Typeset by TNQ Books and Journals

Printed and bound in United States of America

12 13 14 15 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Contributors

- Christopher Adamczyk** Department of Neurology, Klinikum Grosshadern, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany
- Avital Adler** Department of Medical Neurobiology (Physiology) and the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel
- David G. Amaral** University of California, Davis, California, USA
- Katrin Amunts** Institute of Neuroscience and Medicine, INM-2, Research Centre Jülich, Jülich, Germany; Section Structural-functional Brain Mapping, Department of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany
- Ken W.S. Ashwell** The University of New South Wales, NSW, Australia
- Ai-Min Bao** Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience, an Institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences the Netherlands; Department of Neurobiology, Institute of Neuroscience, Zhejiang University School of Medicine, Hangzhou, China
- E.E. Benarroch** Department of Neurology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA
- Hagai Bergman** Department of Medical Neurobiology (Physiology) and the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel
- W.W. Blessing** Departments of Physiology and Medicine, Centre for Neuroscience, Flinders University, Adelaide, SA, Australia
- Pascal Carrive** School of Anatomy, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
- Svenja Caspers** Institute of Neuroscience and Medicine, INM-2, Research Centre Jülich, Jülich, Germany
- I.J. Clarke** Department of Physiology, Monash University, Melbourne, VIC, Australia
- Scott E. Counts** Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL, USA
- Kay Double** University of New South Wales and Neuroscience Research Australia, Randwick, New South Wales, Australia
- F. Forutan** Institute of Anatomy, Heinrich-Heine-University, Düsseldorf, Germany
- Alicia Garcia-Falgueras** Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience, an Institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Netherlands
- Changiz Geula** Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease Center, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL, USA
- Stefan Geyer** Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany
- Ian Gibbins** Flinders University, Adelaide, SA, Australia
- Rainer Goebel** Department of Cognitive Neuroscience, Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- Suzanne N. Haber** Department of Pharmacology and Physiology, Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy, University of Rochester School of Medicine, Rochester, NY, USA
- Glenda Halliday** University of New South Wales and Neuroscience Research Australia, Randwick, New South Wales, Australia
- Suzanaerculano-Houzel** Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil; Instituto Nacional de Neurociência Translacional, Ministério de Ciência e Tecnologia, São Paulo, Brasil
- Heidegard Hilbig** Institute of Anatomy, Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany
- Michel A. Hofman** Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience, an Institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Netherlands
- Gay R. Holstein** Departments of Neurology, Neuroscience, and Anatomy and Functional Morphology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, USA
- Anja K.E. Horn** Institute of Anatomy, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany
- Jean-Pierre Hornung** Institut de Biologie Cellulaire et de Morphologie, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Eva Horvath** Department of Laboratory Medicine, St. Michael' Hospital University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Ricardo Insausti** University of Castilla-La Mancha, Albacete, Spain
- Tatjana A. Ishunina** Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience, an Institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Netherlands; Department of Histology, Embryology, Cytology, Kursk State Medical University, Kursk, Russia
- Jon H. Kaas** Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, USA
- Dae-Shik Kim** Laboratory of Brain Reverse Engineering and Imaging, Department of Electrical Engineering, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and technology (KAIST), Daejeon, South Korea
- George Kontogeorgos** Department of Pathology, G. Gennimatas General Hospital of Athens, Athens, Greece

- Kalman Kovacs** Department of Laboratory Medicine, St. Michael' Hospital University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Morten L. Kringelbach** University of Oxford, Department of Psychiatry, Warneford Hospital, Oxford, UK; Aarhus University, Centre for Functionally Integrative Neuroscience (CFIN), Denmark; Nuffield Department of Surgery, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, UK
- E.A.J.F. Lakke** Department of Anatomy, LUMC, Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands
- Giuseppe Luppino** Dipartimento di Neuroscienze, Sezione di Fisiologia, Università di Parma & Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia (IIT; Unità di Parma), Parma, Italy
- Jürgen K. Mai** Institute for Anatomy, Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany
- E. Marani** Department of Biomedical Signals and Systems, MIRA, Faculty EWI and School MG, University Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands
- M.J. McKinley** Howard Florey Institute, Florey Neuroscience Institutes, Melbourne, VIC, Australia
- M-Marsel Mesulam** Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease Center, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL, USA
- Michael M. Morgan** Department of Psychology, Washington State University Vancouver, USA
- Patricia Morosan** Institute of Neuroscience and Medicine, INM-1, Research Centre Jülich, Jülich, Germany
- Lars Muckli** Centre for Cognitive Neuroimaging (CCNi), Institute of Neuroscience and Psychology, College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow, UK
- Elliott J. Mufson** Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL, USA
- B.J. Oldfield** Department of Physiology, Monash University, Melbourne, VIC, Australia
- Nicola Palomero-Gallagher** Cingulum Neurosciences Institute, Manlius, New York, USA; Institute of Neuroscience and Medicine (INM-2), Research Centre Jülich and JARA-BRAIN, Jülich-Aachen Research Alliance, Jülich, Germany
- Deepak N. Pandya** Departments of Anatomy and Neurology, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts, and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
- George Paxinos** Neuroscience Research Australia, Sydney, Australia
- Michael Petrides** Montreal Neurological Institute, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and Department of Psychology, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- Thomas C. Pritchard** Department of Neural and Behavioral Sciences, The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, Hershey, PA, USA
- Stefanie Reyes** University of New South Wales and Neuroscience Research Australia, Randwick, New South Wales, Australia
- Edmund T. Rolls** Oxford Centre for Computational Neuroscience, Oxford, UK
- Stefano Rozzi** Dipartimento di Neuroscienze, Sezione di Fisiologia, Università di Parma & Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia (IIT; Unità di Parma), Parma, Italy
- Tom J.H. Ruigrok** Department of Neuroscience, Erasmus MC Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- Clifford B. Saper** Department of Neurology and Program in Neuroscience, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA
- Oscar Scremin** Department of Physiology, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, California, USA
- Gulgun Sengal** Ege University, School of Medicine, Department of Anatomy, Bornova, Izmir, Turkey
- Lucia Stefaneanu** Department of Laboratory Medicine, St. Michael' Hospital University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Dick F. Swaab** Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience, an Institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Netherlands
- Tim J. van Hartevelt** University of Oxford, Department of Psychiatry, Warneford Hospital, Oxford, UK; Aarhus University, Centre for Functionally Integrative Neuroscience (CFIN), Denmark
- Brent A. Vogt** Cingulum Neurosciences Institute, Manlius, New York, USA; SUNY Upstate Medical University, Department of Neuroscience and Physiology, Syracuse, New York, USA
- Jan Voogd** Department of Neuroscience, Erasmus MC Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- Phil M.E. Waite** The University of New South Wales, NSW, Australia
- Charles Watson** Faculty of Health Sciences, Curtin University, Perth, Australia and Neuroscience Research Australia, Sydney, Australia
- Karin N. Westlund** University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Lexington, KY, USA
- William D. Willis, Jr.** University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas
- Huang Xu-Feng** University of Wollongong, Wollongong, Australia
- D.M. Yilmazer-Hanke** Department of Anatomy and Biosciences Institute, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland
- Karl Zilles** Institute of Neuroscience and Medicine, INM-2, Research Centre Jülich, Jülich, Germany; C. and O. Vogt Institute for Brain Research, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany

Preface

Neuroscience encompasses diverse fields ranging from molecular genetics to neuroinformatics and neurophilosophy. The common thread between all these fields is the structure of the human nervous system. Knowledge on the structure, connections, and function of the brain of experimental animals is readily available. However, the structure of the human brain was studied by the classical anatomists and their work is difficult to retrieve. With the current intense interest in the structure of the human brain, engendered particularly by imaging studies, groups of scientists familiar with the classical works, but who are also versed in modern neuroscience theory and techniques, have commenced human brain studies.

The present book gives an authoritative account of the structure of the human brain tempered with

functional considerations. The task of describing all parts of the nervous system in the context of modern hypotheses of structural and functional organization would be overwhelming for a single individual. We have, therefore, asked scientists with knowledge and affection for their research areas to contribute to this edited volume. We trust that the combined effort of contributors to *The Human Nervous System 3e* will do justice to the data and concepts available in our field while stimulating the readers' brains, arousing curiosity, and providing a framework for thinking.

Jürgen K Mai, George Paxinos
Düsseldorf and Sydney