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The Neurobiology Of Autism (The Johns Hopkins Series In Psychiatry And Neuroscience)



Synopsis

In the decade since the first edition of *The Neurobiology of Autism* was published, research has revealed valuable new information about the nature and origins of autism, including genetics and abnormalities in such neurotransmitters as acetylcholine and serotonin. For this long-anticipated new edition, neurologists Margaret L. Bauman and Thomas L. Kemper bring together leading researchers and clinicians to present the most current scientific knowledge and theories about autism. The contributors cover genetics, imaging studies, physiology, neuroanatomy and neurochemistry, immunology, brain function, the epidemiology of the disease, and related disorders. Thoroughly updated, *The Neurobiology of Autism* remains the best single-volume work on the wide array of research being conducted into the causes, characteristics, and treatment of autism.

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Customer Reviews

no anecdotal nonsense here. Dr Bauman a Harvard neurologist who has studied the brains of those with autism for years. Her voluminous research dispels the causal myths of autism. Her evidence shows that the assault to the primitive brain affecting the limbic system and cerebellum manifesting as autism happens prenatally.

This is a wonderful book if you have some background in neurology. As a graduate student who has spent the last six years studying brains and behavior, this book was still a bit difficult to get through, though it is filled with great information. I purchased this book to aid in a thesis I was writing about the neurological differences between autistic individuals and neurotypical individuals and this book proved to be invaluable. It's not really a book you want to sit down and read cover to cover (your head might explode from all the information), but to use as a reference, this book is phenomenal!

An elusive and complex disorder is how autism is presented in this book. That's absolutely right, but I don't think this book even begins to give a clue as to the nature of autism. I think the approach has a lot to be desired: We have to assume that the nervous system evolved in order to gratify basic drives. In higher animals, basic drives are refined into complex emotions. So, what do the neurobiologists say? According to them, autism is a neurobiological problem, but not an emotional one! That's worse than just getting things bass-ackwards. It's being stubbornly reductionist and deliberately obtuse.

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