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DEDICATION

For Dan McIntyre and Ron Racine
This book contains the contents of the Sixth International Conference on Kindling, which was held in Victoria, British Columbia, in early June 2004. The Conference brought together a group of leading epilepsy researchers from around the world whose research is concerned with the molecular, anatomical, and physiological substrates of kindling, as well as the age-dependency, behavioral consequences, sensitivity to drugs and other treatments, and clinical relevance of kindling. There was an exciting mix of established researchers — those we have previously referred to as the “stalwarts of kindling” — as well as a number of investigators who have more recently entered the field. That so many of the latter are relatively junior colleagues is a testament to the dynamism and the growth in research on this important preparation of experimental epilepsy.

The conference began with a tribute to Dr. Frank Morrell, who was one of the early kindlers and an eminent neurologist, delivered by Dr. Jerome Engel Jr. Dr. Rafael Gutierrez then delivered a fond reminiscence of Dr. Augusto Fernandez-Guardiola, his mentor and also a prominent kindling researcher, who died shortly before the Conference. Both of these men will be missed, and their contributions to our understanding of epilepsy and epileptogenesis cannot be over-stated.

We organized Kindling 6 into loose themes. Each presentation was followed by a discussion and question period, and there were several General Discussions scheduled during the course of the Conference. As in past Kindling Conferences, we have included these discussions in the book. Much of the magic at Kindling 6 occurred in these informal discussions, and we hope that you will enjoy reading them as much as we enjoyed participating in them.

Kindling 6 is dedicated to Drs. Dan McIntyre and Ron Racine, who were among the original kindlers and who continue to produce provocative, informative, and cutting edge research. Dan McIntyre was a graduate student in Graham Goddard’s laboratory at the University of Waterloo when Goddard was performing the initial work on kindling. He performed some of the seminal research on the neuropharmacology and behavioral consequences of kindling, and more recently he has been exploring the molecular,
physiological, and behavioral differences between the Fast Kindling and Slow Kindling strains of rat. Ron Racine was a graduate student at McGill University when he first learned of Goddard’s then unpublished discovery, and he immediately applied an elegant electrophysiological analysis to kindling that is reminiscent of Morrell’s earlier work on the mirror focus. He subsequently generated paradigmatic research on the anatomical, electrophysiological, neurochemical, and behavioral changes associated with kindling, always in search of the fundamental mechanisms of epileptogenesis. We cannot think of anyone more representative of the outstanding researchers in this field than Dan McIntyre and Ron Racine, and it is a pleasure to thank them for their contributions.

We thank the following sponsors for very generously providing the financial or logistical support that made Kindling 6 possible:

UCB Pharma
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University of Saskatchewan

Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center

Several colleagues served as discussants at the Conference, and we gratefully acknowledge their participation. They are: Gyorgi Buzsaki, Rutgers University; Karen Gale, Georgetown University; Tony Phillips, University of British Columbia; Phil Schwartzkroin, University of California, Davis; and Claude Wasterlain, UCLA School of Medicine. Their important contributions will be evident to all reading the book. We are also grateful that the following people were able to attend as observers: Drs. Alan Blau and William Seidel, Ortho-McNeil; and Dr. Randall Stewart, National Institute of Health.

The outstanding efforts of a number of people assisted critically in the organization of the Conference and in its smooth operation: Janet Corcoran played an indispensable role in the initial planning and in making the hotel arrangements, and George Schandl and Lindsay Timmermans of the Coast Harbourside Hotel and Marina ensured that the food was hot, the air conditioning was cold, and the weather was cooperative. Tonya McGowan prepared graphics, including the delightful logo of the meeting proudly displayed on the souvenir t-shirts participants received. John Howland, Aaron Sheerin, and Ken Wolfe kept the computers and data projectors running, and magically were able to avoid any major technical meltdowns. Deanna Wolfe and Ken Wolfe transcribed the tapes of the discussion and question periods, and Michele Vircavs did the monumental job of organizing the chapters and related material for publication, including insuring that the formatting was correct. All of their efforts resulted in what a number of participants called one of the best meetings they had ever attended. Finally, of course, the participants themselves did a first rate job, and they made Kindling 6 the success that it was. The only way the meeting could have been better would have been if Calgary had beaten Tampa Bay for the Stanley Cup.

Michael E. Corcoran and Solomon L. Moshe
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