

Preface



The first edition of *The Rat Nervous System* served as a laboratory reference book in neuroscience because it provided not only comprehensive reviews but also original observations by researchers intimately connected with their subject matter. Because of the clarity of its presentations, it also served as a textbook in graduate courses in neuroscience.

Most of the authors of the first edition participated in the second edition. It was the experience of these authors that their fields had advanced so far in the decade since the publication of the first edition that they could not reuse much of what they had written before.

The second edition of *The Rat Nervous System* has a broader scope than its predecessor and features:

1. Chapters from most of the authors whose contributions to the first edition became indispensable references in their fields
2. Chapters covering additional systems written by some of the leading scientists in these fields
3. Over 400 accurately constructed illustrations that

4. permit a better appreciation of the organization of brain than written descriptions could have provided
4. New concepts anchored on original observations presented herein

It has been the ambition of those involved in the second edition of *The Rat Nervous System* that it become a primary source of information for the scientist and student interested in structural and systems neuroscience.

Acknowledgments

I thank Kirsten Osen, Pascal Carrive, Annette Dorfman, and Elly Paxinos for editorial assistance, and Alexi Paxinos for technical assistance. In addition, I thank the Academic Press staff, in particular, Dr. Graham Lees, Ms. Lori Asbury, and Ms. Anne Schermer, for ensuring high-quality reproduction of figures and the speedy publication of this volume.

George Paxinos