

HORMONES OF THE LIMBIC SYSTEM

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Although the human limbic system consists of several structures: amygdala, hippocampus, hypothalamus, cingulate gyrus, fornix, olfactory cortex and thalamus, most of the contributions in this volume involve the first three. The limbic system is involved in many emotions and motivations. These emotions are related to sexual behavior, feelings of pleasure, feelings related to eating as well as fear and anger. The hippocampus and amygdala are critical structures involved in memory. The latter determines the storage of certain memories and the location of this storage. The hippocampus determines long term storage of certain memories and is responsible for their retrieval. Aging is sometimes associated with an increase of circulating cortisol that can activate glucocorticoid receptors in the hippocampus leading to apoptosis (programmed cell death) of hippocampal cells and impairment of memory. This volume will be of interest to all investigators involved in brain research, in particular to biochemists, pharmacologists, neuroscientists as well as psychiatrists and researchers in the field of biological psychiatry.



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