# The Canadian Le Journal Journal of Canadien des Neurological Sciences Sciences Neurologiques

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



# 3RD CANADIAN CONFERENCE ON NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES

Proceedings of a Symposium held in L'Estérel, Québec

April 4 – 6, 1991

### The Official Journal of

The Canadian Neurological Society The Canadian Neurosurgical Society The Canadian Society of Clinical Neurophysiologists The Canadian Association for Child Neurology

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## The Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences



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# 3rd Canadian Conference on Neurodegenerative Diseases

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## Introduction

A Symposium on Parkinson's disease was held April 4 - 6, 1991, in L'Estérel, Québéc. This conference was the third in a series sponsored by the Parkinson's disease Foundation of Canada and the Canadian Movement Disorder Group. As previously, the symposium was funded by an educational grant from Sandoz Canada Inc.

Important new observations presented in L'Estérel included evidence that deprenyl can "rescue" nigral dopaminergic cells after they have been damaged by MPTP, and the finding that direct injection of iron can elicit toxic injury to the substantia nigra. New concepts to emerge included a change in emphasis on the origin of levodopa induced dyskenesia from a pharmacodynamic to a pharmacokinetic mechanism.

The meeting was attended by 83 Canadian neurologists and neuroscientists. The symposium managed to combine the reporting of original observations with reviews of the current status of controversies in the areas of research and treatment of Parkinson's disease. In addition, the conference was notable for the spirited discussions that took place between the speakers and their audience, and the extensive interaction between basic and clinical neuroscientists. In keeping with the tradition set by the previous two symposia, the papers presented at this meeting have been reviewed for publication in this special supplement of the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences.

Research on the etiology, pathogenesis and treatment of Parkinson's disease continues to generate new concepts and advances in therapy. This symposium provides a concise survey of points of interest in the laboratory and the clinic. The last decade has witnessed a spectacular growth of Canadian interest in Parkinson's disease, illustrated by the creation of twelve Movement Disorder Clinics across the country. The symposium reported here encourages us to expect that the momentum in this area of neuroscience will be sustained.

D.B. Calne