The word *progressive* holds a number of meanings. In relation to multiple sclerosis, it adopts the familiar meaning of “happening or developing gradually” and most doctors would recognize the phenotype of this common disease. Another meaning for the word is used when it relates to an idea or a person and is “favoring change or innovation,” such as a progressive school or a progressive artist. Up until recently, the science and treatment of progressive multiple sclerosis has, however, been anything but innovative and many doctors and indeed patients viewed the stage of the disease as one in which very little could be done. Things have changed and are changing. The drive for therapies to address disease progression is active and our knowledge and understanding of the pathophysiology of the disease grows year on year. There is a real sense of hope that in the coming years better therapies for progressive multiple sclerosis will emerge.

*Progressive Multiple Sclerosis* is intended to give an overview of the current state of knowledge concerning this common disease. Despite many excellent texts on multiple sclerosis, there has been a paucity of books dedicated solely to the progressive phase. Since knowledge is expanding rapidly in the field, it was felt that this book would be a timely addition to the neurological literature. The hope is that this book will be of use to neurologists, both those in training and those who have practiced for many years. The book composes chapters covering the expanse of knowledge on progressive multiple sclerosis from clinical features and epidemiology through to current and potential treatments.

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