Media and Book Reviews

THE HUMAN BRAIN IN 1492 PIECES: STRUCTURE, VASCULATURE AND TRACTS

by Wieslaw L. Nowinski, Beng Choon Chua, Guoyu Qian, Yevgen Marchenko, Fiftarina Puspitasari, Natalia G. Nowinska, and Michael V. Knopp, Thieme, 2011

Neuroanatomy remained, from the Renaissance to contemporaneity, at the crossroads between arts and science. However, it evolved from observational studies and histologic staining of neuronal elements to computer-intensive 3-dimensional reconstructions.

The Human Brain in 1492 Pieces: Structure, Vascularity and Tracts is such an example. This interactive Windows software is a multilayered 3-dimensional atlas on DVD, able to combine high-resolution brain MRI, tractography, and vascular imaging, as individual layers, to a surprising level of detail. It allows decomposition, multiple cutting and rotational planes, as well as labeling of different structures.

The minimum requirements are a 2-GHz Intel Core Duo, 1 GB RAM, and a graphic card that supports OpenGL 2.1 with at least 512 MB of video memory. It is compatible with Windows XP SP2 or later and Windows 7.

The leading author of this project, Wieslaw L. Nowinski, DSc, PhD, is Principal Scientist and Director, Biomedical Imaging Lab, Agency for Science, Technology and Research, Singapore. He is winner of the Radiologic Society of North America 2009 "Magna Cum Laude" and "Excellence in Design" Award.

Those interested in classic anatomic circuitry, or seeking textbook description, may not find it fully satisfying as it contains no didactic explanatory component. However, this software allows health care

Figure Vascularity

The cerebrovasculature along with the brainstem and spinal cord. A total of 1,325 vascular segments uniquely color coded, such that the vessels with the same name have similar color (image created by using *The Human Brain in 1492 Pieces*). Images courtesy Dr. Wieslaw L. Nowinski.

professionals and researchers to explore and teach through direct assembling and manipulation of different imaging modalities. It can deliver quality images for multiple clinical and educational presentations (figure).

Reviewed by Dragos A. Nita, MD, PhD

Dr. Nita serves on the Editorial Board for the Resident & Fellow Section of *Neurology*[®]. **Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.**

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