Preface

In 2005 we published a complete revision of Duus’ textbook of topical diagnosis in neurology, the first new edition since the death of its original author, Professor Peter Duus, in 1994. Feedback from readers was extremely positive and the book was translated into numerous languages, proving that the concept of this book was a successful one: combining an integrated presentation of basic neuroanatomy with the subject of neurological syndromes, including modern imaging techniques. In this regard we thank our neuroradiology colleagues, and especially Dr. Kueker, for providing us with images of very high quality.

In this fifth edition of “Duus,” we have preserved the remarkably effective didactic concept of the book, which particularly meets the needs of medical students. Modern medical curricula require integrative knowledge, and medical students should be taught how to apply theoretical knowledge in a clinical setting and, on the other hand, to recognize clinical symptoms by delving into their basic knowledge of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology. Our book fulfils these requirements and illustrates the importance of basic neuroanatomical knowledge for subsequent practical work, as it includes actual case studies. We have color-coded the section headings to enable readers to distinguish at a glance between neuroanatomical (blue) and clinical (green) material, without disrupting the thematic continuity of the text.

Although the book will be useful to advanced students, also physicians or neurobiologists interested in enriching their knowledge of neuroanatomy with basic information in neurology, or for revision of the basics of neuroanatomy will benefit even more from it.

This book does not pretend to be a textbook of clinical neurology. That would go beyond the scope of the book and also contradict the basic concept described above. First and foremost we want to demonstrate how, on the basis of theoretical anatomical knowledge and a good neurological examination, it is possible to localize a lesion in the nervous system and come to a decision on further diagnostic steps. The cause of a lesion is initially irrelevant for the primary topical diagnosis, and elucidation of the etiology takes place in a second stage. Our book contains a cursory overview of the major neurological disorders, and it is not intended to replace the systematic and comprehensive coverage offered by standard neurological textbooks.

We hope that this new “Duus,” like the earlier editions, will merit the appreciation of its audience, and we look forward to receiving readers’ comments in any form.

Professor M. Baehr
Professor M. Frotscher