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Targeting Trends

Reporting the latest news in Molecular Surgery

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Denise Higgins, Editor

ADVANCED TARGETING SYSTEMS

Targeted Toxins from Here to There

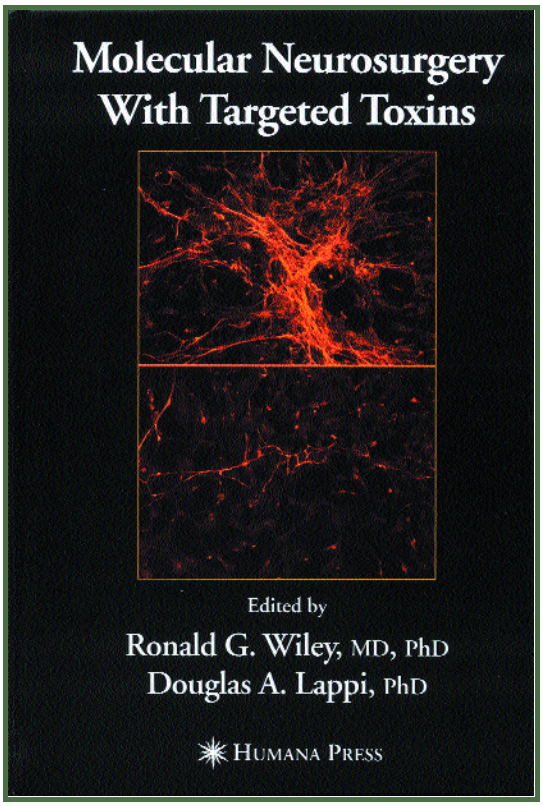
by Dr. Douglas Lappi

Humana Press has released its newest offer to the Neuroscience community, *Molecular Neurosurgery With Targeted Toxins,* with Ronald G. Wiley and myself as editors. This book contains articles by "the best and the brightest" who have used targeted toxins for probing difficult *in vivo* systems biology issues.

The idea behind the book was to provide a road map for the users of Molecular Neurosurgery to see how experienced scientists used these exceptional reagents in their work. Experiments with several targeted toxins are described, and readers can get an idea either specifically about a targeted toxin that they're using, or about how a type of molecule is used and at what dosage, in a paradigm similar to theirs.

The book begins with an Introduction by Dr. Wiley and myself describing the chapters. It is followed by an interesting and very useful article by the discoverer of saporin, Fiorenzo Stirpe of the University of Bologna. We receive many questions from people about the mechanism of action of these targeted toxins that utilize saporin, and this article alone makes the book worthwhile.

The cholinergic toxins 192-Saporin and ME20.4-SAP are the most widely used by the Neuroscience community and there are five articles by such experts as Jerene Waite, Reinhard Schliebs, Martin Sarter and John Bruno for the former, and Rosalind



Ridley and Harold Baker and the Arizona group led by Tom Beach using ME20.4-SAP in primates and rabbits.

Sue Ritter and her colleagues and Patrice Guyenet and his colleagues discuss their work on the use of anti-DBH-SAP in their respective research efforts. It's interesting to see two different groups in two completely different fields tackle their questions with this molecule. These are instructive lessons on problem-solving in science.

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