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#### Sommario/riassunto

This book presents the reader with an understanding of the role played by matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) in the normal and diseased central nervous system (CNS). These enzymes may be important to brain development, and may also contribute to tissue destruction, which is observed with inflammatory and degenerative conditions of the brain. The book provides a background on the biology of MMPs, and on the stimuli and conditions that are linked to an increase in their production and activity. It describes the targets of MMPs, which include matrix proteins such as collagen, soluble cytokines and