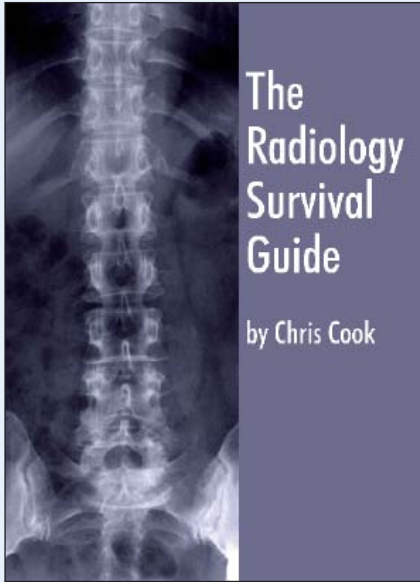


The Radiology Survival Guide

Chris Cook
Quay Books 2007
Price £35.00. Pp 248
ISBN 978 185642
314 4

This book is intended for medical students and junior doctors and serves the dual purpose of an introduction to imaging and a learning aid before clinical examinations. Separate sections deal with chest and abdominal radiographs, musculoskeletal imaging and the urinary tract. There is a valuable section on



common uses of ultrasound, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging (rather a little of the latter), a clinically useful section on computed tomography of the brain, and a final insight into the most common uses of interventional radiology.

The approach is necessarily selective and I hope in a future edition the author will take the opportunity to include a section on emergency radiology, although to be fair some of the common studies are included elsewhere.

What makes the book particularly attractive is the way visual cues are used to aid learning; the images are accompanied by a brief description which identifies and reinforces the abnormal finding and each case is followed by a brief medical background to the condition and the role of imaging, often expanded with further examples.

Each chapter also has a brief introductory section summarizing the investigation before the cases are presented. As an approach to learning it is both attractive and enjoyable.

The publishers have done a good job in maintaining image quality – essential in any book like this – in a modestly priced paperback production. I strongly recommend it.

Stephen Golding, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford

Succeeding as a Hospital Doctor (3rd edn)

Roger Kirby and Tony Mundy
Health Press 2007
Price £5.99. Pp 240
ISBN 978 1 903734 79 7

This book is a very informative book for all doctors working in a hospital environment, irrespective of their level in training. This book, now in its third edition, expands on its predecessors with new contributions and new chapters reflecting the changes in medical practice and training over recent years. To define success as a hospital doctor is a difficult thing. This book helps you to appreciate the different types of success that can be achieved within a hospital environment, by reflecting on expert personal experiences. It gives practical information to enable you to develop your own skills either as a trainee or as a consultant.

As an up-to-date, concise text this book provides information to the doctor that is rarely taught and truthfully said often difficult to obtain.

As a junior doctor I found the chapters on succeeding in training, effective communication and clinical governance most enlightening. Consultants may find other chapters of the book more useful such as management, financial advice and crisis management. Irrespective of the level you are in your training the book provides an excellent read and gives you ambition to

develop your own success in whatever branch of hospital medicine you plan to pursue.

Matthew Kurien, Northern General Hospital, Sheffield

Cardiac Development

Margaret Loewy Kirby
Oxford University Press 2007
Price £91.00. Pp 273
ISBN 978 0 19 517819 7

This is a book that I looked forward to receiving and I have not been disappointed. It is the only contemporary, in-depth, single author reference on heart development – a complex subject which takes a book to begin to do justice to the detail and breadth of current knowledge.

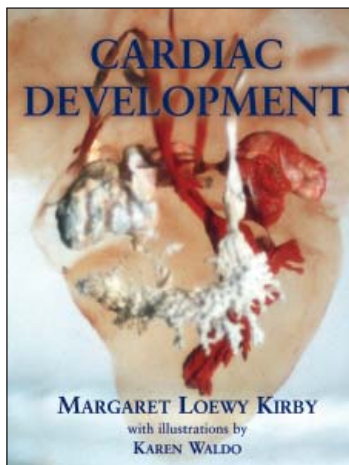
Margaret Loewy Kirby's major research contributions have been in the recognition

and clarification of the influences of neural crest tissue on heart development. While she accepts that she cannot be expert in all fields relevant to cardiogenesis, she has set out to give an inclusive, holistic view. It is extensively illustrated by coloured diagrams together with scanning electron and light micrographs selected from the work of leading labs worldwide. Research on

molecular regulatory pathways and the origins and fates of cells in mammalian embryos continues to progress, and I would also recommend recent articles by AF Moorman, VM Christoffels and their co-authors, which can be traced online.

Returning to Margaret Loewy Kirby's book, the relative sizes of the stages represented could have been made more apparent, either by more consistent use of scale bars or, preferably, by the inclusion of silhouettes inset to indicate the actual sizes represented, which would in many cases be no larger than the full stop at the end of this sentence. A sense of the continuity of growth could have been conveyed better by the use of sequential, appropriately scaled images – a comment which can be levelled at most publications in embryology.

Heart development is fundamental to



cardiology and cardiovascular research. I recommend this book both to those who have and those who have yet to develop fascination for the subject. It is a subject that touches on questions of the origins of the living body, both individual and, presumably, through echoes of our evolutionary origins.

Philip Kilner, Royal Brompton Hospital, London