

**Recent Advances in Cardiology 14**

Edited by Derek Rowlands and Bernard Clarke

RSM Press 2007

Price £35.00. Pp 255

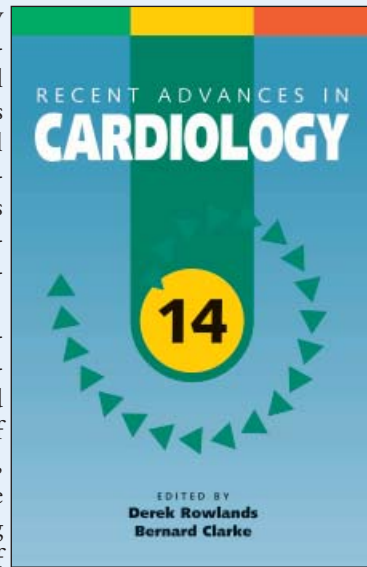
ISBN 978 1 85315 715 8

This popular annual title, which is now in its 14th year, provides an up-to-date survey on the latest trends in cardiology. By being published annually and by focusing on a few selected topics in cardiology, it is able to keep abreast with the rapid changes taking place in cardiology.

In this regard, the chapters, each written by recognized experts in their field, cover a diverse range of topics which span the length and breadth of translational cardiology, in no rational or particular order. For example, basic research is adequately represented by chapters on intracellular calcium in cardiac disease, cardiac

metabolism and the genetics of long QT syndrome. On the other hand clinical cardiology is generously represented by chapters on heart disease in pregnancy, percutaneous coronary intervention in acute coronary syndromes, mitral valve repair, interventions in grown-up congenital heart disease, the pleiotropic effects of statins and the current guidelines for treating hypertension.

It was also great to juxtapose a chapter describing the overlooked and undervalued resource of the electrocardiogram, with a chapter citing the capabilities of the leading edge imaging modality of



non-invasive computed tomography angiography. Often overlooked topics such as the role of psychological factors as triggers of acute coronary syndromes and coronary heart disease in women are comprehensively covered.

Each topic is described in sufficient depth for the enthusiast, yet is written in a style which should appeal to the general reader. As an up-to-date cardiology reference book it should appeal to practising cardiologists, cardiology researchers and general physicians.

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**Emergencies in Oncology**

Patrick Johnston, Martin Scott-Brown, Roy AJ Spence

Oxford University Press 2007

Price: £19.95. Pp 448

ISBN 9780199215638

As the number of patients living with cancer increases, it is becoming more likely that a patient with an oncological emergency will come through the hospital doors. This book provides a comprehensive guide to identifying and managing a range of emergencies that a doctor may be faced with. Not only should doctors working in oncology units be familiar with these emergencies, but any doctor on the acute medical take should learn to recognize the unique circumstances in which the critically ill oncology patient may present.

An index of simple icons graces the inside of the front cover and allows swift identification of the urgency of each presentation. The emergencies themselves are divided either into organ- or system-specific categories. In addition, there are chapters covering chemotherapy and radiotherapy-related emergencies such as haemorrhagic cystitis, extravasation and radiation pneumonitis. Each chapter flows in a logical and easily read manner, with useful tips for further reading at its close. As a minor criticism, the text could have benefited from the use of more colour to enhance the most crucial points.

The first section offers helpful guidance on the management of common symptoms faced daily by cancer patients, for example pain, nausea and dyspnoea. A special mention must be given to the valuable chapter dealing with the often-difficult decisions involving cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use of the Mental Capacity Act. Finally, a number of algorithms covering not only basic and advanced life support but the management of tachyarrhythmias and bradyarrhythmias round off a well laid-out and thorough volume that would be useful for any health professional who may come across a patient with cancer.

*Fareen Rahman, The Ipswich Hospital, Ipswich*

**Develop your interpersonal and self-management skills: a practical resource for healthcare administrative and clerical staff**

Karen Stainsby

Radcliffe Press 2007

Price £21.95. Pp 152

ISBN 9781846191077

This book is excellent. It is easy to read, down-to-earth and amusing. For instance, in relation to feedback and how to give it, it says, 'This may be the first time that anyone has told them that they have been spotted picking their nose in public...' The author has a wonderfully appealing dry sense of humour.

Even though the book is ostensibly for administrative staff, it is also very relevant for clinicians. We all have to learn to get on with colleagues. Passing clinical examinations will get you your qualifications but may not prepare you for the realities of employment. It is no longer acceptable to throw your weight around and assume you can have your own way. On the other hand, doctors do sometimes have to stand up for themselves. Undergraduate communication skills teaching may not cover all aspects of dealing with people.

Daydreaming is advocated as a way to unlock our creative minds. However, I would not recommend making it too obvious at work. Your consultant may not appreciate your attempts to harness your imaginative energy during paid time.

There is some advice on etiquette when e-mailing people, which is not quite the same as when writing letters on paper. E-mail has been introduced relatively recently and not everyone will have covered it at school.

There are one or two unfortunate spelling mistakes, such as 'alleged'. It is a pity that proof-reading does not eliminate such errors.

Overall, I would thoroughly recommend this book for any member of staff.  
*Rachel Hooke, Airedale NHS Trust, Keighley, West Yorkshire*