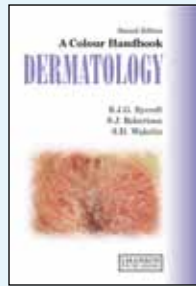


A Colour Handbook Dermatology (2nd edn)

RJG Rycroft, SJ Robertson,
SH Wakelin
Manson 2010

Price £24.95. Pp 256
ISBN 978 1 84076 110 8

I am very impressed with this jolly good little book. It is just what you would expect from authors such as these: Stuart Robertson who has presided over clinical photography and dermatology education at St John's for decades, and Richard Rycroft and Sarah Wakelin who between them have huge clinical experience and wisdom to impart.



At £25 for 500 high quality pictures it is excellent value for money. It was the correct decision to add more text to cover the basic treatment of the conditions that were illustrated because it now completely meets the needs of the target audience – those starting out in dermatological training, whether doctors or nurses – as well as more experienced health professionals in other disciplines, including general practice and occupational health. There is no need to buy more than one book.

Dermatoses (i.e. rashes) are most comprehensively covered but tumours (i.e.

lumps and bumps) less so (approximately 60%:10% of the illustrations). This perhaps is my major criticism – 21st century dermatological practice is the lumps and bumps rather than the 10% of yester year. I have read the book from cover to cover and of course I found some errors and omissions (if the publishers and authors want I am happy to provide them with a list for the next edition or reprint): it is disappointing that these were not detected at proof reading. But these quibbles do not detract significantly from my overall assessment: excellent value for money.

Chris Bunker, University College Hospital, London

The Hospital Autopsy: A Manual of Fundamental Autopsy Practice (3rd edn)

Edited by Julian L Burton
and Guy N Ruttly
Hodder Arnold 2010

Price £75.00. Pp 352
ISBN 978 0 3409514 6

This updated manual sets out to cover aspects of both medicolegal and hospital post-mortem practice and succeeds in providing trainees with practical help at a time when decreasing post-mortem rates reduce opportunities for training. It is a valuable tool for the pathologist in training and the mortuary anatomical pathology technician, and also acts as a handy aide memoir for the established autopsy pathologist.

The book incorporates and explains recent guidelines including issues relating to the Human Tissue Authority and emphasizes specific aspects of the amendments to Coroners' Rules and the relationship between the coronial autopsy and the Human Tissue Act.

There is a clear and important message about the declining autopsy rates and the dangers inherent in this reduction, including the value of autopsy to clinical audit, teaching and research.

Highlights include a chapter on high-risk infection which provides some extremely useful websites and references, a chapter on examination of the nervous system with valuable advice on appropriate tissue retention for specific pathologies and useful chapters on toxicological and biochemical analysis, post-mortem microbiology and the value of post-mortem radiology.

More demanding areas of investigation including problems such as maternal death, anaphylaxis, perioperative and post-operative deaths, the handling of decomposed bodies and the unascertained autopsy are efficiently covered.

In an effort to provide a short handy desktop style manual it provides clear and concise basic coverage of the very specialized areas of fetal, perinatal and infant autopsy.

This is a well-presented manual which covers a broad subject accurately and concisely and is therefore a useful small and accessible book for the mortuary bookshelf. All pathology trainees starting out would be well served by owning a copy.

Alison Cluroe, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge

The Ethics of Pediatric Research

David S Wendler
Oxford University Press 2010
Price £30.00. Pp 337

ISBN 978 0 19 973008 7

This book looks at non-beneficial paediatric research, i.e. research that poses risks and burdens but does not offer benefit to the individual. Such research is needed to get better medical care for children, and ensure current medications are safe and effective and newer less toxic ones are developed.

There is in-depth discussion about the fact that, unlike adults, children, especially younger ones, are not able to give informed consent and understand the risks, potential benefits and alternatives. Parental permission is not a substitute for the child's consent, e.g. children were found to be

more distressed by undressing for Tanner staging of puberty than by research involving invasive procedures.

Risk is explored as a key factor. Monitoring height and weight yearly for the first 18 years would be a minimal risk in contrast to research with a chance of serious harm or death. Importantly, children who are put at risk will not be those who benefit, e.g. rotavirus vaccine studies and drug trials which usually take 10–15 years before the drug is on the market.

A well-developed theme is that taking part in research makes a child's life more meaningful and valuable and the book looks at what constitutes a better life. It suggests that researchers should work on increasing children's and parents' awareness of how much they are helping others. Previous abuses in paediatric research are covered.

This book certainly explores ethical concepts in depth, is thought provoking and enhances knowledge of the topic. However, it is difficult to read, often repetitive and fails to use enough paediatric examples for practising clinicians. There is too much prose about adults. It is not a book you can dip in and out of but have to follow the logical argument. The cover states it is for 'scholars in paediatric ethics and clinical research ethics', with which I agree. For busy clinicians, I would like to see David Wendler produce a concise pocket guide to fundamental ethical principles of paediatric research as he has a wealth of knowledge to impart.

Helen Goodyear, West Midlands Workforce Deanery, Birmingham