

Kumar and Clark's Medical Management and Therapeutics

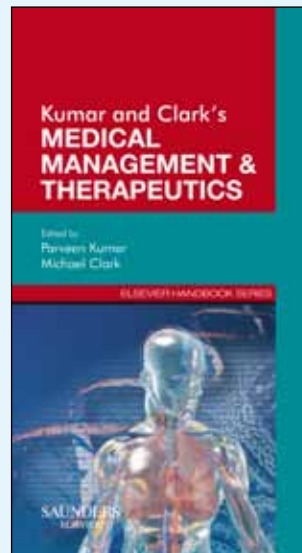
Edited by Parveen Kumar and Michael Clark
Elsevier Saunders 2011
Price £24.99. Pp 784
ISBN 978 0 7020 2765 9

When I was at medical school *Clinical Medicine* edited by Parveen Kumar and Michael Clark was the essential text adopted by almost every medical student. It was popular because of its holistic, detailed and above all accessible text. I was delighted to see that Kumar and Clark have entered the world of the clinical handbook in response to multiple requests.

The handbook is presented in the familiar systems-based organizational structure taken from the original. Each chapter has an easy to find index of com-

mon clinical presentations as well as a helpful introductory text about how to approach the patient and key points to look for in the history. The explanations of clinical conditions are concise, to the point and the emphasis of the text is on investigation and management of the patient. Diagrams and tables are appropriate and well presented. This is ideal for the busy foundation doctor, core medical trainee or indeed those involved in acute and critical care.

The section on emergencies in medicine was a particular strength. It consists



of flow diagrams that individually cover important emergency medical topics such as neutropenic fever and pneumothorax. They are easy to follow in a hurry and importantly reference more complete descriptions of the problems elsewhere in the text.

This is a well presented, up to date, accurate and useful text for the junior (and slightly more senior) hospital practitioner. I know my own copy will end up dog-eared from constant use.

Jamie Hornsby, University College Hospital, London

Oxford Textbook of Heart Failure

Edited by Theresa A McDonagh, Roy S Gardner, Andrew L Clark, Henry J Dargie
Oxford University Press 2011
Price £110.00. Pp 664
ISBN 978 0 19 957772 9

This textbook is well written and beautifully illustrated. The Oxford Publishing Group has assembled a star-studded cast of writers mostly from the UK with a smattering of other experts from Europe and the United States. Despite the wide authorship, the editors have done a magnificent job in producing a uniform style.

I particularly liked the chapter on pathophysiology of heart failure and the chapter on renal dysfunction which makes clear the reasons for therapeutic success in this field. Tricky subjects such as prognostication in heart failure and comorbidities are discussed in detail. The chapters on imaging are well illustrated, although I was a little disappointed not to find any moving images in the online version.

There is a lot of detail on therapeutics in heart failure with a whole chapter about digoxin. Advanced heart failure therapy including surgery, cardiac transplantation, assist devices and mitral valve surgery are also extensively covered.

Inevitably, new information is published almost immediately after a text-

book is and therefore there is no mention of the landmark STICH trial in the revascularization section although the earlier STICH hypothesis II trial is reported. The textbook comes with free online access to the textbook for 6 months although it is unclear whether frequent updates are planned. That the online access is limited to 6 months is a pity. Few purchasers will wish to carry the textbook to or from work so it will only ever be available in one place.

Despite these minor issues the beautiful illustrations, the comprehensive assessment of the subject, and the literary style makes this book a superb contribution to knowledge and teaching in heart failure.

Simon Woldman, *The Heart Hospital, London*

Sports Injuries

Edited by Michael Huston and Cathy Speed
Oxford University Press 2011
Price £175.00. Pp 559
ISBN 9780199533909

Huston and Speed are two leaders in the field of sports injuries and have, overall, edited this book to a high standard. They have drawn on the experience of a wide range of specialists to create a comprehensive text.

The book is well structured into four sections: basic science, clinical principles,

regional injuries and special considerations. The depth of the basic science section sets it apart from many similar texts on the market.

The regional injury subsections are fairly consistently laid out into history, examination, investigation and treatment with a reference list at the end of each subsection. Within the special considerations section are included sports injuries in older athletes, children and females, disability sport, emergency on-field management, and sports-specific considerations. There are some areas of repetition towards the approach to immediate assessment in the on field and relevant regional subsections. In addition the concept of dysfunction could have been emphasized more, particularly within the spinal chapters which tended to have a strong trauma focus.

The scope of this book means it can not be in depth but it nevertheless provides an impressive overview. It will be most relevant to those earlier on in their sport and exercise medicine training or those from other specialities with an interest in the field. I would recommend it to anyone wishing to understand more about sports injuries and particularly commend its strength in setting the region-specific issues within the wider principles of sports injuries.

Eleanor Tillet, *University College London Hospital, London*