

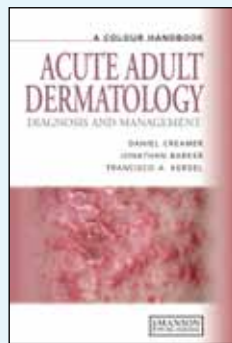
**A Colour Handbook:
Acute Adult
Dermatology: diagnosis
and management**

Daniel Creamer, Jonathan Barker, Francisco A Kerdel Manson 2011

Price £29.95. Pp 240
ISBN 9781840761023

This is a handy little book. It is a credit to its authors but I

suspect from the acknowledgements section, which is written in the singular, that one author in particular deserves most of that credit. Stand up Dr Creamer? But the trio are highly regarded 'names' in the specialty, respected for their clinical experience and expertise and their interest in the education of others in things dermatological.



Authors aside, is the book an asset for readers and purchasers? At £30 for ~300 pictures the latter is indubitable, even before the content of the text is taken into consideration. Some of the pictures are too small (but it is a small book) and some too 'orange' but that may be a problem with my own cones or occipital cortex. The text is concise, accurate and digestible, efficiently serving up the requisite facts.

My slight quibbles are with the authors' choice of selected dermatological contents. Is Darier's disease an acute condition? Are discoid lupus erythematosus and chronic actinic dermatitis? Squamous cell carcinoma? And not mentioned are oedema blisters, phimosis (caused by

lichen sclerosus and other genital dermatoses) and HIV seroconversion illness: Fournier's gangrene is in the index but not on page 128, or elsewhere methinks; cholesterol emboli is in the index and text but not specifically illustrated nor discussed in the differential diagnosis of polyarteritis nodosa. There may be other omissions but they have escaped me.

Overall, this is a good buy and it should sell well in most of its target market, especially primary care, accident and emergency, and general medicine. However, I would hope and expect that dermatologists in training would satisfy their educational appetites at a different table especially in this age when even the largest texts are accessible from portable devices.

CB Bunker University College London Hospitals, London

**Handbook of Communication in
Anaesthesia and Critical Care:
A practical guide to exploring
the art**

Allan M Cyna, Marion I Andrew, Suyin GM Tan, Andrew F Smith Oxford University Press 2010

Price £34.95. Pp 268
ISBN 978 0 19 957728 6

Good communication is an essential part of anaesthesia and critical care. It is central to achieving positive interactions with patients, relatives and staff. This is a very well thought-out book which serves as a great introduction to effective communication for both trainee and consultant anaesthetists.

The book discusses the theories behind day-to-day language construct and conversation (the things we very often take for granted), and highlights ways to improve outcomes of these interactions, using simple concepts.

All common, and some less common, anaesthetic problem scenarios are covered in a very readable format. The book not only focuses on doctor-patient interactions, but also includes sections on communicating with colleagues, teaching and handling administrators.

One aspect of this book that makes it particularly useful is that all theories and scenarios are illustrated with example interactions specific to anaesthesia. Each example demonstrates how the techniques

discussed have a positive influence on the outcome of the conversation.

Each chapter is clearly referenced allowing for further background reading into areas of particular interest.

This is an excellent introductory book on communication for trainee or consultant anaesthetists aiming to fine tune their interactions and teaching prowess. It certainly forms a solid platform for those interested in reading further into these areas. Books like this can very often appear too 'fluffy' to the palate, but this one is surprisingly refreshing from the outset.

David Popple, Northampton General Hospital, Northampton

**Oxford Case Histories in
Respiratory Medicine**

John Stradling, Andrew Stanton, Najib Rahman, Annabel Nickol, Helen Davies Oxford University Press 2010

Price £39.95. Pp 389
ISBN 978 0 19 955637 3

The clinical case discussion has become a neglected format in a world of evidence-based medicine and endless guidelines. The authors have been able to weave these strands together in a way that brings back the excitement of learning clinical medicine.

Forty four case histories are presented with detailed questions and discussion of the learning points to be had from each case. There is a mixture of the rare and common, but each case is used to the full.

Many years of accumulated clinical experience are synthesized with the science and evidence base to make telling practical points. This is the strength of the book. It is like having your favourite clinical teacher share his/her accumulated clinical nouse in a way that makes the apparently ordinary case stimulating and full of subtlety.

I particularly enjoyed the discussion of the management of a patient with a chronic pneumothorax who wanted to travel in an aircraft. The physiology is clearly explained. Sleep medicine is sometimes viewed as unchallenging, but the cases presented show otherwise. Lung function tests feature prominently and are discussed in detail.

The authors have clearly gone to a great deal of trouble to select X-ray and computed tomography images to illustrate important diagnostic points relating to cases of interstitial lung disease and bronchiectasis. Unfortunately this brings me to my one critical note: some of the reproductions are of inadequate quality. Perhaps the publishers would consider including a CD or DVD of the radiology in future editions. Maybe the book could be produced as a series of e-learning modules. In the mean time I thoroughly enjoyed this book and recommend it to specialist registrars and consultants in respiratory medicine – go out and get a copy for your department. *Nabeel Ali, Kings Mill Hospital, Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Nottinghamshire*