

Fetal Medicine for the MRCOG and Beyond (2nd edn)

Alan Cameron, Janet Brennand,
Lena Crichton, Janice Gibson
RCOG Press 2011

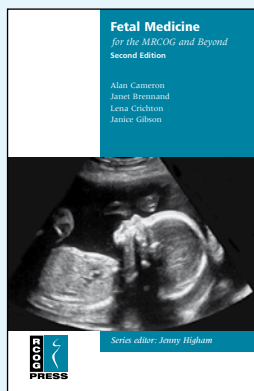
Price £32.00. Pp 214
ISBN 978 1 906985 36 3

The subspecialty of fetal medicine is rapidly expanding its horizon. This second edition of *Fetal Medicine for the MRCOG and Beyond* is a comprehensive and concise book written by experts in fetal medicine.

The target audience is candidates preparing for MRCOG examinations and beginners in fetal medicine, but it will be useful for all clinicians working in obstet-

rics as a good understanding of the topics is essential in day-to-day practice.

Although it is a small book, it covers the topics in sufficient detail to achieve its aims. Because of the amount of information contained it is advisable to read it over a period of time – it is not a book for skim reading. The ten chapters cover nearly all topics in fetal medicine. The tables are easy to read, remember and compare facts. The tables in the first chapter on screening are especially useful for exam candidates in need of a quick update.



The background context to clinical practice is provided by the inclusion of pathophysiology and embryology. This enables the reader to enhance his/her understanding of the topic. Good use is made of diagrams to reinforce the information in the text.

Overall this book can be highly recommended to MRCOG candidates. I am sure they will refer to it even

after their exams, in their everyday clinical practice.

Susmita Pankaja, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton

A Colour Handbook: Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism

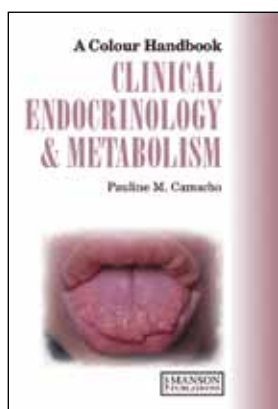
Pauline M Camacho
Manson 2011

Price £29.95. Pp 224
ISBN 978 1 840761 21 4

This colour handbook is a cross between a small text book and a colour atlas comprising 224 pages with many colour plates. The format of being slim, relatively small and light is appropriate for on-the-run reading. This is good value for money considering the number of illustrations.

This text would be suitable for medical students through to junior specialist registrars who might use it for revision of the basic knowledge of endocrinology. More senior endocrinologists would find this a useful for resource for teaching material with chapter subsections and content of each chapters providing a good base for drafting presentations or a simple curriculum.

Some chapters include well-presented and up to date summary algorithms for management of major conditions such as thyroid, adrenal, pituitary and diabetic disorders. However, readers should note that these are based on American guidelines, which is slightly different from treatment practice in the UK – all 21 contributors are from the USA with no international input. Some chapters such as those covering reproductive and syndromic disorders are more superficial.



Overall this is a useful book to have on the shelf in any department of endocrinology and could be essential reading for every new specialist registrar to have an achievable crash course covering the spectrum of specialist conditions. This is the advantage of have a collection put together in this way rather than resort to the internet for illustrations.

Wui Hang Cheung/Gerard S Conway, University College Hospital London, London

How to get a Specialty Training Post: the insider's guide

Danny CG Lim
Oxford University Press 2011

Price £16.95. Pp 193
ISBN 978 0 19 959080 3

Although not unique in providing junior doctors with an insight into succeeding in getting a specialty training post of their choice, *How to get a specialty training post: the insider's guide* does provide a useful insight into a process which can seem daunting. At this point, I must declare a conflict of interest as an author of *Secrets of Success: Getting into Specialty Training* (Smith et al, 2009).

How to get a specialty training post: the insider's guide competently guides the reader through the key hurdles in the application and interview process. It also extends its coverage to jobs after core

training, tackling the complex issue of ST3+ jobs and even general practice applications. While this could have been one of the strengths of the book, unfortunately it is one of its downfalls. Each topic is covered very loosely and although many specialties are covered, other major ones (inevitably) have been left out. A number of ST3+ medical posts have been covered but neurology is missing. Most core training posts are covered in the text but histopathology is missing. There is no explanation as to why some specialties are included and others missing.

These oversights give the impression that the specialties section was over-stretched and included as an after thought. Each individual specialty is given a page only (with a few exceptions given little more). This is best demonstrated by the limited 2-page coverage for the GP selection process, which could justify an individual textbook in itself.

In essence, it could leave an interested trainee short-changed, especially as the book advertises its 'large chapter devoted to specific advice for the different specialties'. There is no doubt this textbook is a useful guide to future trainees, but in its attempt to be cover as many specialties as possible, crucial details have been overlooked, meaning it has not succeeded in providing a complete 'insider's guide'.

Philip J Smith, University College London, London

Smith PJ, Ramachandran M, Gladman MA (2009) *Secrets of Success: Getting into Specialty Training*. Hodder Education, London