

Seminars in Liaison Psychiatry (2nd edn)

Edited by Elspeth Guthrie, Sanjay Rao, Melanie Temple
RCPsych Publications 2012
Price £35.00. Pp 528
ISBN 978 1 908020 34 5

This is a welcome, practical and wide-ranging book, setting out best practice in general hospital psychiatry. It feels coherent as a volume, with all its contributors having been UK-trained. Expectations are met with plenty of extra resources (training competencies for junior doctors, reflections on current classifications, management of sleep disorders and long-term conditions, and multilevel approaches to service development).

This book is aimed at interested trainees and busy clinicians who will be impressed with the scope of chapters that

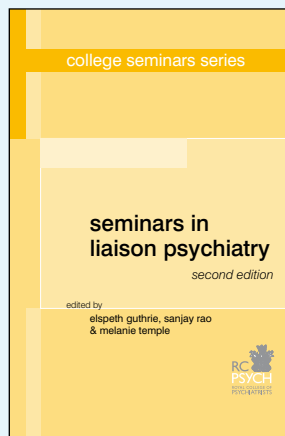
go beyond the obvious and champion evidence-based practice. Its tone is optimistic with outstanding chapters on psycho-oncology, medically unexplained symptoms and psychotherapy.

Seminars in Liaison Psychiatry is not an introductory textbook and assumes the level of knowledge of at least a RCPsych membership trainee. After gentle but useful introductory chapters, almost every possible referral to a liaison service is covered, ending with a 'how to' of service design and business cases, and finishing with self-assessment.

Some omissions are minor and probably a case of subjects mentioned in passing: electroconvulsive

therapy deserves more space, burns are a major challenge on the wards, as are patients with learning difficulties, and the sections on alcohol need to cover the rising epidemic of alcohol-related brain disease. Although psychological reactions to physical illness are consistently and adequately discussed, a separate section on the various presentations of personality disorder would add to this volume. But when early intervention in long-term conditions and traumatic events get properly discussed and workable solutions posited, this book will become an essential resource for liaison psychiatrists.

Peter Byrne, Newham University Hospital, London



The Manual of Dermatology

Jennifer A Cafardi
Springer 2012
Price £35.99. Pp 573
ISBN 978 1 4614 0937 3

This text is a concise overview of need-to-know general and specialist dermatology, for the dermatologist, in a handy format. The manual comprises first a coding section (for the USA – not relevant to the UK). Next, practical sections on hair and nail pathology condense these complex areas into usable tables. The paediatric dermatology chapter is also solid.

Procedural dermatology contains a local anaesthetic quick reference guide and diagrams of the ear, nose and eyes: a valuable aide mémoire in minor operations. However, the cosmetic procedures outlined may be less relevant to UK practice. One potential area of improvement might be some anatomical diagrams of important facial structures such as arteries and nerves, cosmetic units and skin tension lines. The medical toxicity section also positively contributes.

The greatest strength of this text is the particularly helpful and well-written section on general dermatology because it is thorough but concise. The author has carefully researched the most clinically relevant points. It contains a wealth of important clinical pearls and informative

points, clinically relevant in everyday practice, that make it recommended reading. However, American drug nomenclature is used and some treatments involve medications that are not in common use in the UK.

The pluses include useful tables, concise summaries, the most clinically relevant points are discussed and the general dermatology section is excellent for everyday clinical practice. The minuses include the occasional incomplete table or point from text, use of informal language or abbreviations (occasionally have to infer meaning), the index is not comprehensive and the 'Americanization' of medications. Overall, however, this is very good clinical value for money.

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Essential Skills for a Medical Teacher

Ronald M Harden
and Jennifer M Laidlaw
Churchill Livingstone Elsevier 2012
Price £29.99. Pp 254

ISBN 978 0 7020 4582 0
Essential Skills for a Medical Teacher provides a concise introduction to the field of medical education and is a practical guide underpinned by educational models and theory which are introduced alongside each section. The book covers what consti-

tutes a 'good' medical teacher, outcome-based education, organizing a learning programme, and methods of teaching and assessment in medical education.

The overarching feel of the book is that it offers a sensible hands-on manual supported with an evidence base. It is not packed full of jargon and educational concepts are described simply. It is clear and concise throughout and it is easy to see how the authors' tips, which ooze experience, could be translated into practice.

A whistle-stop tour of each topic is provided, giving adequate information in most places for the novice. At some points there is a feeling of a need for slightly more information but instead of clogging this introductory book, at all points the authors direct the reader to other resources. Each chapter ends with a reflection section which encourages the reader to actively reflect on his/her own practice as a teacher and this can be used as a powerful self-evaluation resource.

The book is perfectly suited to those just getting involved in medical education at more than just a basic level and would complement those beginning to undertake study in this field, such as a postgraduate certificate in medical education. I will certainly be using it when I begin mine.

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