

**Acute Surgery:
The Survival Guide**

edited by Shelly Griffiths
Radcliffe 2013

Price £23.99. Pp 223

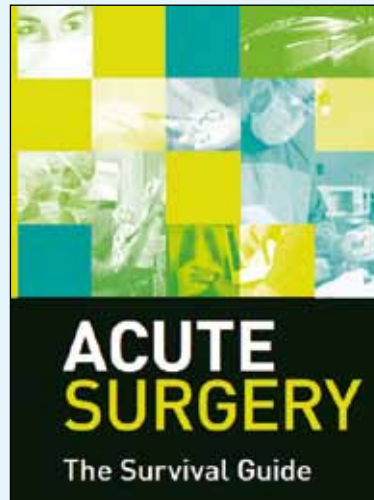
ISBN 978 184619 999 8

This book is written predominantly for foundation year doctors and junior surgical trainees in order to help them to safely navigate their on-call responsibilities. It offers a somewhat conversational but undoubtedly accessible account of the management of a broad range of clinical scenarios which may be encountered by juniors out of hours and will assist the translation of their knowledge into the practice of clinical surgery.

Chapters cover general, vascular, urology, ear, nose and throat and orthopaedic surgery with further sections for the man-

agement of trauma and ward cover. A pragmatic and safe approach is suggested for the assessment and initial management of a range of common emergency presentations, effectively highlighting potential pitfalls.

The format throughout the book is broadly similar and chapters accommodate the basic anatomy and physiology required to enable a competent assessment of the patient. Essential practical procedures are covered with sufficient clarity to enable the relatively inexperienced clinician to perform



them safely and with confidence.

The book reads like a kindly and able registrar bestowing the accumulated practical knowledge of their years in clinical medicine to their junior colleagues in an informal and straightforward manner. It is not comprehensive but uncluttered by design and I think will be a very welcome addition to the coat

pocket of foundation year doctors and core trainees.

Christopher Thorn, Great Western Hospital, Swindon

Managing Pain

edited by Chad M Brummett
and Steven P Cohen

Oxford University Press 2013

Price £35.00. Pp 495

ISBN 978 0 19 985943 6

As instructed by the authors this book is aimed at the non-pain specialist. So to review it from the perspective of a pain specialist is not easy. It is unlike many pain medicine books I have read or reviewed. It is engaging but contains precious few pictures. Its depth of content is impressive, although breadth, including interventional techniques, is almost entirely absent. And ample space is given over to complementary therapies and phytomedicines (plant products). Most unusual.

The book is mostly formed of dense prose with tables. Its introduction sets the tone; accessible, easy to read and inclusive. Using the military allegory of 'battles won' and 'battles lost' when describing clinical success or failure is unfamiliar but memorable. Pharmacological treatments are addressed first in detail – and good coverage is given to the long-term effects of strong opioids, although this is not an obvious choice for the first chapter of a pain textbook.

I wonder how many will persist to the intriguing chapter on phytomedicines – written by a duo from Germany – which contains such gems as the use of nettles

and butterbur for migraine. Their evidence list is extensive, although the use of these products at the clinical coal-face is not rare.

A welcome chapter on sleep and its effect on pain precedes the second half of case-based discussions. These are the standard for pain textbooks and, though accessible and give an adequate overview, are better found elsewhere.

Who would read this? As the editors say, probably the non-pain physician. It will certainly stimulate but in this word-laden form only those with stamina will see it through.

Richard Griffiths, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, Kent

**Basic Sciences for
Ophthalmology**

edited by Louise A Bye, Neil C Modi,
Miles Stanford

Oxford University Press 2013

Price £85.00. Pp 288

ISBN 978 0 19 958499 4

Basic Sciences for Ophthalmology is an amazing textbook. In 288 pages with high quality images, figures and diagrams, it covers eleven very important chapters of basic knowledge of ophthalmology and provides a succinct overview of the current status of basic ophthalmological knowledge and disease. The textbook covers anatomy, ocular physiology, biochemistry and genetics, pathology, microbiology,

immunology, growth and senescence, optics, therapeutics, lasers and instrument technology and basic biostatistical and epidemiological terms.

This book, part of the Oxford Specialty Training series, promises to be an invaluable tool for young ophthalmologists for passing the FRCophth Part One Exam and also for extending the knowledge base of the established ophthalmologist. The 'helpful hint' and 'clinical tip' tables, full-coloured designs and images make it an easily accessible textbook. Using this book will expand the knowledge of pathophysiological mechanisms since it encourages one to skim through it quickly as a reference book.

The content appears to be comprehensive and some topics are very well-described and up-to-date such as the pathology of inflammation, aqueous humour dynamics and the genetic basis of eye conditions. However, the aspects of pathology and clinical application could have been addressed in greater depth.

The main advantage of the book is its brevity – it covers a very large amount of factual information, with little or no superfluous detail.

The accuracy and timelessness of the information within this textbook makes the entire volume above average to excellent, despite some minor shortfalls.

Andreas Karydis, Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Guildford