

Pediatric Neurology: a Color Handbook

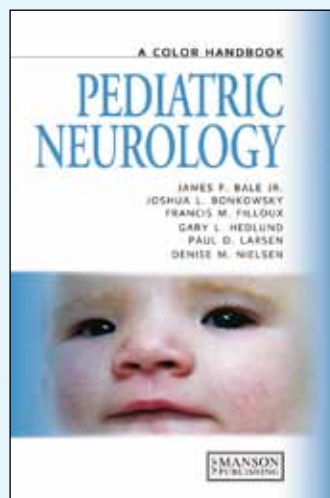
James F Bale Jr, Joshua L Bonkowsky, Francis M Filloux, Gary L Hedlund, Paul D Larsen, Denise M Nielsen
Manson Publishing 2012
Price £49.95. Pp 352
ISBN 978 1 84076 134 4

Pediatric Neurology: A Color Handbook is a friendly sized book introducing the commoner neurological disorders in childhood. It is almost a colour atlas to paediatric neurology and the use of small text boxes for key features and diagrams makes for a very pleasant, easily accessible book.

The content is organized into a core concepts in paediatric neurology section

followed by a larger problem-based section. There is no excessive use of long lists of causes or features of diseases, these being more appropriate in larger reference textbooks.

The book is eye catching, being the sort of book people pick up from your desk and flick through while you are in conversation with them. It is possible to browse through the book, briefly reminding yourself of a few facts on a condition, both written and visual. It would be useful to students trying to



grasp a large subject area in a brief period of time.

It is based on different American protocols, guidelines, drugs and disease prevalence so it may not fulfil the role of a handbook to paediatric neurological care in the UK. However, this does not make it irrelevant to the UK and should not detract from its very well-presented content on a complex paediatric specialty which should be appreciated worldwide.

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How to Get Through Revalidation: making the process easy

Peter Davies
Radcliffe 2013
Price £23.99. Pp 132
ISBN 978 1 908977 59 9

How to Get Through Revalidation: making the process easy by Peter Davis is a step-by-step guide to the background and purpose of medical revalidation and how to approach putting together the necessary information for appraisal.

Peter Davis is a GP with considerable experience in both the clinical and managerial sides of general practice, including working as a GP appraisal lead. His practical experience of engaging GPs with reflective practice and compiling portfolios of evidence comes across in the book, with a chatty style that places the author on the side of the doctors looking across at the General Medical Council and the revalidation system as something that needs to be navigated through. At times his language is florid, describing his personal perspective on the unreflective approach to practicing medicine of the past, something that he is confident that revalidation will change.

The book covers the background to revalidation and the appraisal process. While there are brief mentions of hospital doctors these have the feel of being peppered through the book to boost its appeal to a wider group. The information and the approaches are generally from the GP perspective, not least in the description of

how to approach multisource feedback where the practice manager is nominated as the best person to collate the feedback and the arrangements are described as 'not fully electronic so paper is needed and then some laborious number crunching'.

Where the book is particularly thin is in the chapter on personal development planning. This lacks the notion of a personal development plan being a living document that is reviewed and updated regularly to reflect the needs of the time and then submitted as a vital part of the evidence for the next appraisal. The book skirts around the essential clinical governance component of revalidation and the responsibilities of all doctors and responsible officers to address any fitness to practise concerns as they arise.

At £23.99 and 132 pages the book is slim and with several blank pages as well as a repetitive style it does not represent value for money. The most factually accurate and detailed parts are taken from the General Medical Council website; they are therefore available to all for free.

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Oxford Handbook of Clinical Surgery (4th edn)

Edited by Greg McLatchie, Neil Borley, Joanna Chikwe
Oxford University Press 2013
Price £29.99. Pp 832
ISBN 978 0 19 969947 6

The latest incarnation of this book is a surgical tour de force. It covers every

aspect of surgery except for ophthalmic surgery and neurosurgery in concise detail. I would highly recommend this tome to any student of surgery ranging from the undergraduate to the core surgical trainee. The level of detail may overwhelm the first year clinical student but will still be a useful revision guide for the pre-membership surgical trainee and will probably be best aimed at foundation year doctors rotating through their surgical posts.

The format will be familiar to any user of the Oxford Handbook series and features numerous illustrations of anatomy and basic surgical procedures. Key revision points dotted throughout the book are a useful accompaniment to the relevant section (e.g. an outline of large bowel blood supply in the chapter on colorectal surgery).

The main downside to this breadth and depth of surgery is that it weighs in at a hefty 415g and with the demise of the white coat, carrying it around on the wards will quickly become tiresome. Still, it would be a useful pre-clinic or ward round flick-through for the diligent student who keeps it close to their person. A further minor point concerns evidence-based practice which the *Oxford Handbook of Clinical Surgery* alludes to but provides little in the way of recent trials or references. However, such level of detail would be more suitable for a shelf textbook as opposed to a portable handbook.

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