

### Breast Disease Management: a Multidisciplinary Manual

James Harvey, Sue Down, Rachel Bright-Thomas, John Winstanley, Hugh Bishop  
Oxford University Press 2014

Price £22.99. Pp 249

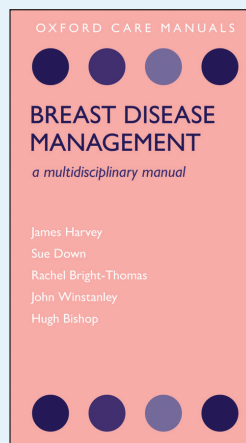
ISBN 978 0 19 921506 5

The authors have succeeded in putting together a book on breast surgery which is quite different from anything else in print. The clue is in the subtitle – multidisciplinary – and this concise manual reflects the true multidisciplinary nature of breast surgery today. The book would be useful to a trainee in breast surgery, as well as in the other disciplines (pathology, radiology, oncology, breast care nursing, or GP trainee) seeking a practical understanding of how a breast service works.

The book is well laid out with a historical introduction to the planning and

functioning of a UK breast unit. Those who remember Hugh Bishop at the helm of the Association of Breast Surgery will recognize some of his stock phrases (breast industry, distinguished colleague) but the book as a whole benefits from the multiple authors who have ensured that each aspect is up to date.

The chapters on the patient journey in the screening service and the outpatient clinic will serve as a helpful introduction to those about to start a breast post. The sections on operative technique are less appropriate to the non-surgical reader but, like any manual, this book does not need to be read from start to finish but instead acts as a useful reference for a



wide range of areas within the field of breast surgery.

Although I have been a consultant for close on 20 years, I found new information and interesting commentary in the book which has a readable style throughout. I was slightly mystified by the formatting, with small text yet surprisingly frequent blank pages and wondered whether going up a font size might make it more user-friendly to those reliant

on reading glasses!

I would have no hesitation in recommending this manual. There are plenty of textbooks about breast disease, but this book addresses the fundamentals of how UK breast surgery works in practice.

*Tim Davidson, Royal Free Hospital, London*

### Oxford Textbook of Medical Education

Edited by Kieran Walsh

Oxford University Press 2013

Price £195.00. Pp 784

ISBN 978 0 19 965267 9

The Oxford Textbook of Medical Education is an impressive addition to the Oxford Textbooks series. The book delivers a comprehensive review of the state of play of medical education today. It sets out to provide a broad, evidence-based review of best practice in medical education. This is achieved by grounding the reader in key theoretical principles, the literature behind current best practice, and then touches on how to bring this all into action.

In comparison to competitors, such as Tim Swanwick's *Understanding Medical Education*, it has more of an international feel to it. It also looks to the future, and in doing so recognizes the unrelenting pace of change in this relatively young specialty.

Editor Kieran Walsh is well qualified to oversee the proceedings. He successfully brings together the work of more than 120 contributors, including 42 professors, from 16 countries, spread across five continents. They cover a variety of educational themes from interprofessional education, selection into medicine, research methods, and medical education in developing countries. It is hard to find any topics that feel overlooked.

The book's size and cost mean it is more likely to be used online or in the library than taken from the physician's shelf. Despite its size (over 700 pages), it remains easily navigable via logical divisions into themes such as curriculum, delivery, assessment, global medical education and the future.

The book cannot be faulted on accuracy or relevance either. Each contribution is based on an extensive list of references (even the foreword has 14 references) including work from 2013, making the book feel complete and contemporary.

The book feels appropriate for its intended readership: those with a role in or interest in training doctors. However, for the complete novice it may not feel as readable as other 'lighter' texts in the field. That said, its weight brings a richness of expert analysis that is unrivalled. As a post-graduate student of medical education, it works nicely as a starting point to dip into the world of medical education research.

*Daniel Burrage, St George's, University of London, London*

### Do No Harm

Henry Marsh

Weidenfeld and Nicholson 2014

Price £16.99. Pp 278

ISBN 978 0 2978 6987 0

I found this book a fascinating read and commend it. The author was appointed as consultant neurosurgeon to a south

London teaching hospital in 1987, just a couple of years before I retired as a general surgeon from the NHS; he himself is now approaching retirement. As far as I can discover, this is the first account of life by a surgeon working in today's health service.

On the one hand, using numerous examples from his own practice on a wide range of cranial and spinal pathologies, he describes the exquisite technology of today's operative neurosurgery: the superb magnification of the modern binocular operating microscope, the exact localization of the lesion using today's scanning machines, the refined engineering of the instruments and methods of haemostasis – all very different to the neurosurgery that I saw in my 2 years on an army neurosurgical unit as a young national service surgeon in 1950–2.

On the other hand, I was depressed by the author's account of today's NHS hospital, with the loss of the surgical team, the destruction of the programme that turned out highly skilled and technically competent surgeons after some 10 years of training, the cancelled operations and cancelled admissions – all made sad reading indeed.

I feel sure that if I were in surgical practice today, I would be sacked for refusing to comply with the rules and regulations that seem to be destroying the health service I was so proud to serve for 40 years.

*Harold Ellis, Guy's, King's and St Thomas' School of Biomedical Sciences, London*