

## The Naked Surgeon

Samer Nashef  
Scribe UK 2015  
Price £14.99. Pp 244  
ISBN 9781922247933

As a clinical medical student in 1977, Samer Ashef carried out an audit of the results of emergency vascular surgery (in those days, embolectomy and repair of ruptured aortic aneurysms). The mortality rate between the various surgeons ranged from 25% to 70%. His presentation was met with stony silence and, on qualifying, he found he was unable to get a job in his region.

This experience has no doubt led to his longstanding interest and expertise in the assessment of risk factors and quality of care in surgical practice.

As consultant cardiothoracic surgeon at

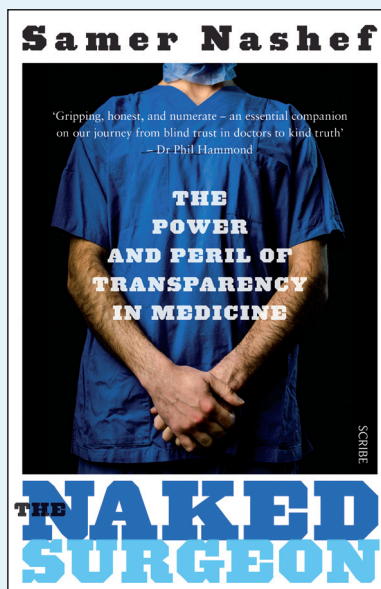
Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, he has published a stream of reports on risk factors in cardiovascular surgery. This enables surgeons to compare their mortality and morbidity rates, taking into consideration the risk factors in their patient population. His findings are presented in this easy to read and fascinating book.

The text is powerfully reinforced by the account by Steve Bolsin, who, as a young anaesthetist in Bristol, exposed the paediatric

cardiac surgery scandal, and another, by Stephen Large, who describes the effect of an operative death of a young, high risk, patient on the surgeon himself.

This slim and easily read book will be of great interest, not only to every surgeon but also to anaesthetists, nursing staff and indeed all who are concerned with the care of patients.

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



## Mentoring and Supervision in Healthcare

Neil Gopee  
Sage 2015  
Price £24.99. Pp 304  
ISBN 9781473902473

While targeted towards the expectations and standards of the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the third edition of this bestselling text explores theoretical concepts that would be equally relevant to clinical practice within medicine generally and as such would appeal to a breadth of health-care professionals, particularly those who hold formal roles as supervisors and/or tutors.

Within the opening chapters, the reader is introduced to the concepts of effective mentoring alongside how learners learn and how a mentor can facilitate such learning; this is a perfect introduction for those new to the role and also to those wishing to develop their teaching skills. Of particular use are change management techniques, a dedicated chapter on the increasing role of the mentor as an assessor, the challenges one faces in resolving difficulties with the under-achieving student, and also advice on how to evaluate one's mentoring skills to encourage continual improvement and reflection.

Clearly structured, easy to read chapters, outline the expected outcomes and summaries for each, which alongside mentor-

ing tool templates available for reproduction within the clinical environment, highlighted further reading, and the companion website, makes this a highly useful text for those looking to turn theory into quick practical gains.

Gopee's text is an excellent introduction for those developing their mentoring, teaching and leadership skills or those wishing to update their skills based on the latest evidence and theory. Highly relevant to every health-care professional, I thoroughly recommend this insightful and practically useful text for any individual who holds a responsibility for the professional development of another.

*Alex Till, School of Psychiatry, Health Education North West - Mersey*

## The FCEM Notebook

Joanna S Rowlinson  
CRC Press 2015  
Price £31.99. Pp 174  
ISBN 9781482224832

*The FCEM Notebook* provides a reference source for many of the more difficult clinical questions faced by higher speciality trainees or consultants. These are questions that can often be difficult to find a focussed answer for and often require a lengthy review of different sources

to find the answer. This book removes that difficulty, providing clinical information in a well laid out, brief and easy to read format.

It does not provide answers in a typical short answer question format, but is more directed at providing a brief, bullet-point overview of a certain topic. As a result, this book is not only useful as an exam preparation resource, but will also be useful in the clinical environment. The succinct yet comprehensive answers mean that the information can be processed quickly and will be useful for both the short answer questions and OSCE (objective structured clinical examination) stations. It is well laid out and easy to navigate and I would recom-

mend it for all emergency medicine trainees.

It is not, however, a one-stop shop for all aspects of the FCEM (Fellowship of the College of Emergency Medicine). It does not cover the whole curriculum and should not be bought on the assumption that it is an 'everything you need to know' book, but as more of a quick reference guide.

*Graham Johnson, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield*

