

Oxford Textbook of Medical Education

Edited by Kieran Walsh
Oxford University Press 2016
Price £95.00. Pp 776
ISBN 9780198785712

A few years ago, anyone wishing to find an authoritative and comprehensive textbook of medical education would have been disappointed. There were some good journals and some excellent 'toolkit' type pamphlets, but no single resource that covered the entire field.

This gap has been filled recently with texts such as *Understanding Medical Education* and *Medical Education, Theory and Practice*. The *Oxford Textbook of Medical Education* is the latest addition to the fold. The list of contributors reads like a 'who's who' of medical education and Kieran Walsh has done an excellent job in bringing the chapters together in a logical sequence. Each chapter's comprehensive reference list will allow further study for

those undertaking a postgraduate diploma or masters in medical education.

Most chapters will be equally valuable to those just wanting an insight into the theory underpinning education, although there are more accessible, and cheaper, options for clinicians embarking on practical projects.

There are relatively few diagrams and the few photographs are not of the standard I would have expected. Topics such as curriculum, assessment and supervision are covered extensively but other topics such as quality could have been dealt with in greater detail.

Many educationalists would agree that there are better ways of imparting knowledge and learning than via a large textbook. Nevertheless, this book will find a home in most medical libraries and on the shelves of individuals with an academic interest in medical education.

John Alcolado, Royal Derby Hospital, Derby



Understanding Kidney Diseases

Hugh Rayner, Mark Thomas, David Milford
Springer 2016
Price £89.50. Pp 300
ISBN 9783319234571

Understanding Kidney Diseases should be of value to all health professionals involved in the care of kidney patients. Written by clinicians experienced in both paediatric and adult renal medicine the book focuses primarily on the assessment rather than management of a patient with renal disease, and is full of anecdotes and practical tips, illustrated with case histories and examples of how data can be handled and interpreted.

Nineteen chapters follow a logical sequence, from anatomy and physiology through clinical, laboratory and imaging assessment, to renal replacement therapy. Each chapter sets out objectives, and is clearly written, clarifying many misconceptions.

The text is greatly enhanced by colour illustrations, which include line diagrams, histology and electron microscopy, and clinical images. Images of water leaking through holes in a hose pipe at different pressures illustrate beautifully the effects of

changes in glomerular filtration pressure on glomerular flow rate. All chapters contain references for further reading, and multiple choice questions are useful for both self assessment and reflection on each chapter. Overall a comprehensive guide to the assessment of patients with renal disease.

John Bradley, Addenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge

Textbook of Pleural Diseases (3rd edn)

Edited by Richard W Light, YC Gary Lee
CRC Press 2016
Price £165.00. Pp 651
ISBN 9781482222500

This is a superb and definitive book on the subject edited by two widely acknowledged leading authorities. The individual chapter authors are experts chosen from across the world which delivers a broad perspective.

The book is usefully divided into two main parts – basic science and clinical science. The chapters are a good readable size to digest, and the well thought-out layout delivers an easy to read format with key points summarized.

It is a great book for clinicians and trainees who have any dealings with

pleural conditions, and with difficult cases I have found reading the relevant sections extremely helpful. It encompasses basic work up of undiagnosed effusions and common conditions to the much rarer diagnoses.

Pleural disease is widely becoming recognized as a speciality in its own right, and so many hospitals have or are setting up dedicated pleural services. To this end there are chapters on how to set up your service, pleural ultrasound and radiology, performing safe interventional procedures, medical thoracoscopy and indwelling pleural catheters.

The paper copy comes with its own link to download the e-book, one of the brilliant features of which is that the majority of the references are direct web links straight to that article. This makes reading around a subject or researching an area so easy to do. The book concludes with a chapter of future research ideas and predictions of what is to come for those wanting to take things further.

Even if you don't buy this yourself then I would highly recommend that at least each respiratory department would do well to own a copy for their practice.

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