

Rethinking Patient Safety

Suzette Woodward
CRC Press 2017
Price £55.00. Pp 186
ISBN 978 1 49877 854 1

As a former paediatric intensive care nurse who has worked in the field of patient safety for over two decades, the author is well positioned to write with candour and insight about the issue of patient safety.

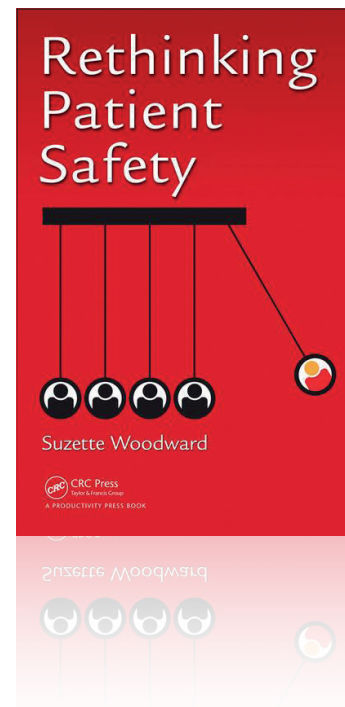
The book is accessible, concise, well written and referenced, and littered with thought-provoking quotes from the great and good, including Berwick, Dixon-Woods and Gawande. It is ordered into 15 bite-sized chapters, which can be paraphrased as the epidemiology, aetiology, signs and symptoms, investigations, treatment, prognosis and new developments of patient safety, all of which include suggestions for further reading.

Something that was quite profound for me was reading that up to 10% of

health care results in harm to the patient. But the author was at pains to stress that the numbers are highly contentious and it is important to focus on learning not counting. Health care is described as being neither 'neat nor linear' and the difficulties of improving patient safety acknowledged; including measuring something that has not happened, seeing incident reports as unquestionably true, and implementing and sustaining good practice.

It is not surprising that when it comes to patient safety, culture still eats strategy for breakfast. If you want to understand this messy, complex, important and emotive topic, I highly recommend this book, whatever your seniority or specialty. In the words of Don Berwick, if we want to improve patient safety, we must 'listen, really listen'.

David Warriner, NHS England and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, London



Handbook of Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis

Edited by Aaron Miller
Springer 2017
Price £49.99. Pp 134
ISBN 978 3 319 40626 8

This is a well-considered and concise review of where we are currently 'at' with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis. This volume covers pertinent and up-to-date aspects of the pathophysiology of the disease, including mechanisms which have informed some of the available and emerging disease-modifying treatments.

Common clinical presentations are discussed, along with imaging characteristics. Consideration of the differential diagnosis of the disease is emphasized, alongside diagnostic criteria for multiple sclerosis and clinically isolated syndrome.

The authors discuss disease management, with an unbiased, accessible overview of disease-modifying treatments. There is an important focus on the monitoring requirements and risks associated with individual treatments, as well as treatment efficacy. This review and discussion is extended to significant emerging therapies. Symptom management

is not neglected and importantly, there is a patient-centred and multidisciplinary team theme throughout the book.

This is a reliable, practical introduction to the rapidly evolving and expanding area of multiple sclerosis, for those wishing to enter the field or neurologists seeking a better understanding of it.

Victoria Singh-Curry, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, London

Winning the Publications Game (4th edn)

Tim Albert
CRC Press 2016
Price £26.99. Pp 140
ISBN 978 1 78523 011 0

This book (and its previous editions) is based on interactions and feedback from a very popular course on writing scientific articles, delivered by Tim Albert around 500 times over a 20-year period.

The book provides the 'neophyte author' with an effective template for achieving publication success. It clearly lays out its aims and objectives, and delivers on them.

As an editor and an author, I wish this book had been available to me

30 years ago, when I started playing 'the publications game' – trying to write and get my research published without any knowledge of the 'rules'.

This book has been written and revised in order to help 'so many otherwise capable doctors and scientists [who] were finding the task [of writing] so difficult'. This text is bursting with practical tips on how to write a manuscript, starting with the first conversations with colleagues about the publication idea, making the first draft and revisions, and submitting it for publication. Difficulties surrounding authorship, interactions with supervisors, and guest authorship are discussed in detail. There is a clear account of the processes involved in the interaction between an author and a journal editor. This will prevent frequently avoidable difficulties, and demystify the publishing process for an author.

Those who read this book will surely improve the quality, clarity and understanding of their publication outputs to both scientific and lay audiences. Download it, own it and use it, before you look at the next draft of your manuscript.
Robert Miller, University College London, London