

Communication Skills for Effective Dementia Care

Ian A James, Laura Gibbons
Jessica Kingsley Publishers 2019
Price £19.99. Pp 144
ISBN 9781785926235

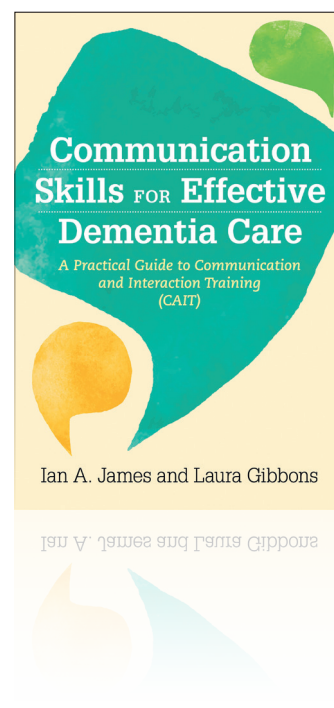
In modern health-care systems we can congratulate ourselves on people living longer, yet this brings with it increasing numbers living into older age with chronic conditions, not least of all dementia. In *Communication Skills for Effective Dementia Care* the authors address difficult issues around interacting with people with dementia head on. They offer their own evidence-based framework, communication and interaction training, with explanations of the underpinning theory.

The book is short and easy to read yet covers a number of important topics. Part one introduces communication and interaction training, then breaks down the model and covers useful areas of theory such as needs assessment and formulation-based

care plans for people with dementia. Part two explores evidence-based approaches to communication in more depth, including the use of touch, how to gain consent for an interaction when someone lacks capacity, and methods for communicating with people in the advanced stages of dementia.

This book is not exhaustive, nor is it a training manual; rather it beautifully introduces key topics and points the reader towards communication theory and strategies they may wish to explore further. It would be an informative read for anyone involved in care for people with dementia at any level, from carers to clinicians of all grades, managers or service commissioners. The authors call loudly and clearly for better communication training for health-care staff and this book could be the first step along that road.

Amy Illsley, Bradford Royal Infirmary, Bradford



Interventional Cardiology and Cardiac Catheterisation: The Essential Guide (2nd edn)

Edited by John Edward Boland, David WM Muller
CRC Press 2019
Price £104.00. Pp 638
ISBN 9781138481510

This is a well written, laid out, referenced and nicely illustrated book aimed at 'medical trainees and allied health professionals'.

The text is quite small and dense and would benefit from being broken up by more tables and figures. Some chapters have a summary, some a conclusion and others none. It uses some dated terminology and has a great deal of repetition. Chapters covering non-invasive assessment of ischaemic heart disease, electrocardiogram interpretation and pathophysiology of atherosclerosis, among others, also feel out of place given the title.

I did enjoy reading about the different devices for vascular closure devices and those that have been developed to facilitate coronary interventions, as I did not realize that the evidence demonstrates that they do not actually improve outcomes, despite widespread usage.

This book struggles to answer the question 'what problem am I trying to solve' and indeed it is not clear who its target audience actually is. It is too broad, basic and expensive for cardiology trainees but may be better suited to allied health professionals.

David Warriner, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Sheffield

Gupta and Gelb's Essentials of Neuroanaesthesia and Neurointensive Care (2nd edn)

Edited by Arun Gupta, Adrian Gelb, Derek Duane, Ram Adapa
Cambridge University Press 2018
Price £59.99. Pp 416
ISBN 9781316602522

The second edition of *Gupta and Gelb's Essentials of Neuroanaesthesia and Neurointensive Care* is an introductory text covering key clinical concepts in the perioperative care of neurosurgical patients and critical care of patients with traumatic brain and spinal injuries.

The book is ideal for anaesthetic trainees starting placements in neurosurgical theatres or neurointensive care units. Following a brief overview of key topics

in neuroanatomy, neurophysiology and neuropharmacology, the book covers a wide range of topics relevant to neuroanaesthesia training including patient positioning, anaesthetic options for different neurosurgical procedures and postoperative monitoring.

While the text provides sufficient depth to allow the junior trainee to work effectively with anaesthetic and neurosurgical colleagues, it lacks the detail required to be a reliable reference text for more experienced readers.

The book is well structured and clearly presented with key points, admirably short subsections and a good number of relevant tables and figures. This makes it easy to dip in and out of, and helps the reader look up specific topics at short notice if required.

The chapter on neurosurgical operative approaches is the highlight of the textbook, summarizing the wide range of patient positions used by neurosurgeons to access lesions with minimal need for brain retraction.

If you are new to this complex field, this manageable introductory text will help you develop a strong foundation of knowledge.
Chris McKinnon, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Oxford