

## **Handbook of Myocardial Revascularisation and Angiogenesis**

Edited by Ran Kornowski, Stephen E Epstein, Martin B Leon  
Martin Dunitz Publishers 1999  
Price £59.95. Pp 240  
ISBN 1 85317 782 2

This book looks at advances in treating patients with medically refractory angina who are not suitable for percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty or coronary artery bypass grafting, or who have failed previous intervention.

The first section concentrates on direct myocardial revascularization and surgical or percutaneous approaches to create transmural channels using either laser, radiofrequency energy or mechanical methods. A number of currently used systems are reviewed in detail, and the mechanisms by which these may work are touched on briefly. The possible role of angiogenesis leads into the second half of the book which focuses on the role of growth factor protein and gene therapy in therapeutic angiogenesis. The results of studies using VEGF and bFGF in both peripheral and coronary arterial disease are covered in detail and provide a valuable background to the vast amount of work in this field.

A single chapter, with numerous references, is devoted to the revolutionary NOGA non-fluoroscopic imaging system which creates a three-dimensional electromechanical map of the endocardial surface and is a promising development in percutaneous intervention.

The book consists of 18 short chapters which are mostly easy to read but with a certain amount of repetition particularly in the introductory paragraphs. A large volume of data is presented by the authors, all of whom are at the forefront of this research, and includes animal work and clinical trials such as ATLANTIC and PACIFIC. The book is informative, up-to-date and well illustrated, with numerous colour plates. What the role of these techniques will be in the future remains to

be seen. This book will be of value to all those working with vascular disease, not just cardiologists.

*Richard Mansfield, Royal United Hospital, Bath*

## **Instant Physiology**

Neil R Borley, Vinod Achan  
Blackwell Science 2000  
Price £12.95. Pp 198  
ISBN 0 632 05004 7

In line with the current vogue for 'revision-style' textbooks, Borley and Achan have compiled a concise, yet highly informative account of human physiology, one of the fundamental building blocks of medicine and surgery.

The simplicity of this book relies on bullet points, simple well-labelled line illustrations, schematic flow diagrams and shaded boxes containing clinically relevant information. The traditional physiology textbook style has been abandoned, and the emphasis has moved away from page after page of text.

The authors have not confined their text to simply teach the 'normal', they make great effort to associate the basic physiology with pathology. Borley and Achan have made a significant and worthwhile attempt to maintain the interest of the reader.

Like all texts, *Instant Physiology* is not perfect. The absence of an index is very disappointing, and there is hardly any discussion of some subjects, such as the physiology of the colon. In producing a concise physiology text, certain material has been pushed aside. While the discussion of acid-base balance is very good, there is no mention of why humans strive to maintain a blood pH within a narrow range.

This is an excellent book for revision purposes, whether for finals, for post-graduate exams, or for the tutor of physiology. The undergraduate learning the topic for the first time, however, might need to supplement their learning with a more comprehensive text.

*James S Dawson, final year medical student, Leicester University*

## **Psychosis: Psychological Approaches and their Effectiveness**

Edited by Brian Martindale, Anthony Bateman, Michael Crowe, Frank Margison  
Gaskell 2000  
Price £25.00. Pp 306  
ISBN 1 901242 49 8

This multi-author book, from an international conference held in October 1997, challenges the increasingly biological perspective in the treatment of psychoses, discussing psychological approaches for people with psychotic disorders. The editors acknowledge that this is not a comprehensive overview of these psychological approaches. They call for a closer link between biological and psychological approaches, and present evidence for the limitations of antipsychotics while acknowledging the benefits of neuroleptics to many patients.

Therapeutic approaches covered include cognitive therapy, family, group and psychosocial approaches as well as individual psychoanalytic psychotherapy. There is also research on crisis residential care and early intervention psychotherapeutic approaches. The book does not specifically describe certain therapeutic approaches, for example to the increasingly prevalent problem of drug psychoses.

The editors acknowledge that research design into psychological therapies with psychotic patients is difficult in that there are many confounding variables. Despite this, there is growing evidence for extra resources in psychological therapies for psychosis.

General psychiatrists will find useful chapters on cognitive-behavioural therapy, compliance therapy, psychoeducational multifamily groups and preventing relapse and admission. This book highlights the need for good interpersonal skills in treating those with psychosis. It should be read by trainee and consultant psychiatrists and be available in specialist libraries.

*Jason Taylor, Warley Hospital*