

## McMinn's Colour Atlas of Human Anatomy (5th edn)

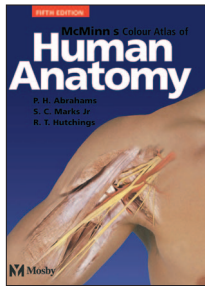
PH Abraham, SC Marks Jr, RT Hutchings  
Mosby 2003

Price £38.99. Pp 392

ISBN 0723432120

First published in 1977, this highly popular text was originally designed to bridge the gap between what medical undergraduates saw in the dissecting room and what they read about later – a fundamental concept that continues more than a quarter of a century on.

Labelled photographs of prosections and of bones predominate this text, supported by photographs of living subjects to illustrate surface anatomy, and radiological and surgical images which add a living element to anatomy. Most pages have a footnote which highlights a clinical situation in which



an appreciation of the anatomy described is relevant, and these provide a page-link to a glossary of clinical information.

This edition includes a CD-ROM containing an application which endeavours to allow the user to navigate around the body, adding and removing layers of skin, muscle and fascia, to appreciate the spatial relationship of structures which make us so complex. The programme is remarkably easy to use.

This combined package of textbook and CD-ROM will prove invaluable to undergraduates, those preparing for postgraduate examinations, for teaching purposes or simply to refresh one's anatomical knowledge.

I am sure that McMinn's will be as popular, as well presented and accessible in 25 years time as it is today.

*James Dawson, Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham*

## Medicine and the Internet (3rd edn)

Bruce McKenzie

Oxford University Press 2002

Price £19.95. Pp 296

ISBN 0198510632

Information technology has developed in leaps and bounds over the past decade. Evidence-based clinical practice, incorporating the latest medical advances, means that clinicians have to rely increasingly on the internet to access the most up-to-date information and as a medium to exchange views and ideas.

Bruce McKenzie, a GP working in Chesterfield, has managed to assemble an impressive amount of information in a comprehensive but highly readable book. His team of talented contributors has produced a book that provides the reader with a clear overview of the medical applications of the internet, covering clinical care, medical and patient education and web publishing.

The contents will certainly appeal to a broad audience from medical students, medical management and colleagues in other caring professions. It may also be of interest to patients or advocacy groups who need some assistance in developing a framework for assembling, organizing and publishing clinical information.

Patients are already using the internet to find out more about their medical conditions to obtain some self-help and for mutual support from other sufferers. Nevertheless, clinicians can also play an important role in educating patients if they are sufficiently well-informed about the internet and the types of information currently available for their clients. This book should be essential reading for those with more than a passing interest in providing patient care in the 21st century.

*Neelam Radja/Richard Lau,  
St. George's Hospital, London*

## The Pelvic Floor: Its Function and Disorders

John H Pemberton, Michael Swash,

Michael M Henry

WB Saunders 2001

Price £79.95. Pp 487

ISBN 0702023078

This is a very useful addition to the various texts on pelvic floor dysfunction. The multidisciplinary approach is emphasized, although the general bias of this textbook is towards coloproctology, perhaps redressing the previous bias towards urogynaecological and urological texts. The book is well-written and easy to read, with an emphasis on high quality diagrams and photographs.

There is an excellent chapter on pelvic anatomy by John Delancey, with

new diagrams. A functional physiological approach is followed throughout the book, with early chapters covering normal function of the lower urinary and colorectal system, as well as the pelvic floor. Subsequent chapters address the investigation of the urinary and defaecatory systems, followed by chapters on the management of the various pelvic floor dysfunctions, including effects of childbirth, urinary voiding dysfunction and incontinence, constipation, irritable bowel syndrome, faecal incontinence, solitary rectal ulcer and haemorrhoids.

The chapters on pelvic neurophysiology and functional testing are particularly useful. In addition, the chapters on imaging are accompanied by high quality photographs and diagrams and provide a clear overview of the subject.

The book contains a number of useful algorithms for treatment in both urinary and faecal disorders, which could form the basis of hospital or regional treatment pathways for continence services.

This book will be very useful to both consultants and trainees working in urogynaecology, urology and coloproctology, providing an overview of the areas where all three specialties overlap, and would be a valuable addition to any postgraduate library.

*Liz Adams, Liverpool Women's Hospital*