Book Review

“An Introduction to Clinical Neurology”
Anil D Desai, Satish V Khadilkar

The rapidity of change in the landscape of neurology and the taxonomy of disease might suggest that the practicing physician needs to abandon the traditional, ‘old-fashioned’ approach to patients based on clinical history and physical examination. Nowhere in medicine is there as great a need for clinical acumen and for practical experience with interviewing and examining patients and having well-developed powers of observation and interpretation of findings. Introduction to Clinical Neurology, now entering its second edition, is written by clinical neurologists Anil D. Desai and Satish V. Khadilkar with the vast longitudinal experience in the careful assessment of the entire spectrum of neurological disorders.

Prof. Robert Griggs
Prof. of Neurology, University of Rochester School of Medicine, Editor-In-Chief - ‘Neurology’

Published by: National Series
Indian Price: Rs. 175/-
(Special offer till 31st May 2003 - Rs. 130/- for API Members).

Available at:
The National Book Depot (Regd.)
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Book Review

Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS
Vinod K Sharma, Editor-in-Chief

This book is meant for persons involved in the care of patients with Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS including post-graduates in Dermatology and Venereology and allied disciplines, and practicing skin and VD specialists and general practitioners. It would also be useful for those involved in teaching of the subject to MBBS, nurses and paramedical courses.

Key Points
* Comprehensive and detailed coverage of STD and AIDS
* Perspective of developing countries for epidemiology and treatment
* Effect of STDs on health of individual and community
* The treatment guidelines of NACO, CDC and WHO
* Atlas and clinical approach chapters
* Prevention of STD by behavioral modification and condom use

Published by:
Viva Books Private Limited
New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata
4262/3, Ansari Road, New Delhi - 110 002.

Indian Price: Rs. 1295/-
Book Review

Oxford Textbook of Medicine


The Oxford Textbook of Medicine is undoubtedly a gold mine of information. I was reminded of the ecstasy of the poet Keats who wrote his famous poem ‘On first looking into Chapman’s Homer’. In the preface Sir David Weatherall has stressed the changes in practice is of medicine and the spiraling cost of medical care. The ethos of Western medical practice is under question. Chapters 1, 2, and 3 are full of wisdom and must be read not only by consultants in medicine but also by health administrators. Over 2000 superb illustrations adorn these three volumes. Vol. I is particularly rich in Tropical Medicine and in a sense the apotheosis of the subject. Vol. II is mainly on metabolic disorders, endocrine disorders, pregnancy and its problems, gastroenterology, cardiovascular medicine, critical care and respiratory medicine. Vol. III covers rheumatology, skeletal disorders, nephrology, STD, disorders of blood, dermatology, neurology and psychiatry, forensic medicine and sports medicine. Geratology (geriatrics) and emergency medicine are also well covered. There is also a list of reference intervals for biochemical data. In the lab medicine section the reference ranges for cholesterol and its fractions and triglycerides should be as per the NCEP (ATP III) guideline.

It was a daunting task to review this opus. The language is uniform and clear and the chapters are not laboured. Regrettably, a few errors have appeared. In the preface, raison d’etre has lost the circumflex accent on the letter e. The word Egyptian has been printed as Egyption! in the typology of medicine (Chapter 2.1). Indeed the typology of medicine is too eurocentric. Amenhotep, Hammurabi, The Yellow Emperor, Charaka and Sushruta are not mentioned. Indian readers will take umbrage at the map on page 630 (fig. 1) in which Kashmir is shown as a separate country. Gene polymorphisms and the use of micro-arrays to detect SNP’s are given short shrift. So is PCR. On 34 in the chapter on large scale randomized evidence, sensitivity and specificity are mentioned but not predictive accuracy. The calculation of odds ratio is not given. In cardiology drug eluting stents are not mentioned. These are minor errors (except for the map on Kashmir) and in no way detract from the excellence of the work. Every medical library must have this book. A true product of British Scholarship and enterprise.

Prof. Dr. KG Nair
Contributor to the Second Edition of the Oxford Textbook of Medicine

Published by: Oxford University Press 2003
Indian Price: Rs. 9750/-
Book Review

Oxford’s Clinical Immunology Vol. I & Vol. II

Edited By Pravash C. Sen Gupta

While basic research in immunology has substantially aided in the investigation and treatment of numerous clinical disciplines, advanced research provides fundamental insight into molecular, cellular, and developmental biology. Covering the immunological basis of medicine and its various subsidiaries - including respiratory diseases, Gastroenterology, ophthalmology, cardiology, neurology, and reproductive diseases - this book highlights the immunological aspects of intervention and explains aspects of intervention and explains the practical interpretation of recent advances in the science and the adoption of new technologies in immunology.

This collection comprising 136 chapters, written by doctors from all over the world, is divided into two parts: basic and clinical immunology.

* The chapters on basic immunology deal with the salient immunological principles required for comprehending and correlating the contributions to clinical pathology.
* The chapters in the second part of the book have been grouped together into several major disciplines, such as gastrointestinal, hepatic, respiratory, renal, endocrinial, haematological, connective tissue, neurological and dermatological diseases, reproductive immunology, tropical and infectious diseases, transplant and paediatric diseases, ophthalmology, immunodeficiency syndrome, and tumour immunology.

The diseases discussed in different chapters have been illustrated on relevant inheritance patterns, clinical features, underlying aetiology, pathogenesis and management.

The contributors to this two-volume set are firmly of the view that immunology is the spearhead of medical and scientific discovery, which includes basic molecular and cellular biology of complex systems that transcends basic research into medically useful agents and strategies. Immunologists, pathologists, postgraduates, researchers, and others involved in pursuing medical science will find this book extremely useful.

Published by
Oxford University Press,
YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road,
New 110 001.

Two-Volume Set Price: Rs. 2950/-
Book Review

Primer on Insulin Resistance

by Dr Shashank R Joshi

Published by: Asian Health Care

The present day hot topic in Clinical Medicine - "Insulin Resistance", has been reviewed in a lucid manner by the author in less than 100 pages. This shows the simplest way of presenting a complex metabolic problem, which is rapidly advancing. The book gives a clear definition of the problem, gives a detailed account of the molecular components and the way they interact to produce the clinical syndromes. Author also gives clear guidelines for making the diagnosis and details of pharmacological and nonpharmacological treatment modalities. Being an Endocrinologist, he has obviously given a little more importance in managing the diabetes part of the Insulin Resistance. Even though the author has given references in the form of suggested readings, one may find, difficulty in locating the reference for the Indian criteria for the metabolic syndrome. The printing, lay out and the design of the book are excellent, which will make this compact book a "collectors item" for the doctors.

Prof. R. V. Jaykumar
Prof. of Endocrinology,
Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi.

Indian Price: Rs. 250/-

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