BOOK REVIEWS

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Pressure Ulcer Research: Current and Future Perspectives

DAN BADER, CARLIJN BOUTEN, DENIS COLIN, CEES OOMENS (EDS)

EXTENT P/H	382 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£100.00 3540250301
PUBLISHER	Springer (Berlin), 2005
REVIEWER	Chris Khoo
STAR RATING	****

This multi-author volume brings together 30 contributors under an international editorship. The four editors include three biomedical engineers (one from Queen Mary's College, University of London and two from the Eindhoven University of Technology) and the medical director of l'Arche Rehabilitation Centre in France, who is the only clinical author.

The final chapter on tissue repair strategies, which is of most surgical interest, focuses on 'biochemical stimulation of the wound bed to improve wound healing. Important new therapeutics in this category are reviewed such as: (i) exogenous application of growth factors; (ii) tissue-engineered skin grafts; and (iii) gene therapy.' The two authors from the Eindhoven University of Technology are (according to an internet search) not medically qualified, so understandably their viewpoints do not set out the full range of current reconstructive surgical options or 'future perspectives' in clinical surgery.

The publishers have adopted the convention of excluding any reference to the contributors' professional qualifications. With this handicap, the clinical reader cannot effectively assess treatment strategies mentioned by the authors as merely being references from the literature or from the author's own authoritative experience.

Nevertheless, this is a useful and unique contribution to a neglected area. Risk assessment, basic science and human and animal research are fully reviewed. Epidemiological studies from The Netherlands on the costs of pressure ulcer care and the medicolegal review from the US add significant practical insights. The chapter on the role of oxidative stress in the development and persistence of pressure ulcers is a particularly helpful summary of ischaemia-reperfusion injury from two Oxford biochemists who support their chapter with a comprehensive reference list. The editors have generally avoided repetition (a significant achievement in a multi-author text) though there is a colour illustration of a section through human skin that is a reiteration of a black and white graphic.

This slim volume succeeds in its aim of providing 'a clearer understanding of the mechanisms associated with the aetiology of pressure ulcers and to identify the risk levels of individuals'. Surgeons with a pressure sore and

wound-healing interest will find a useful reference even if it does not find wider surgical acceptance. I would certainly want to have this on my medical bookshelf.

Tissue Surgery

MARIA SIEMIONOW

EXTENT P/H	160 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£60.00 1852339705
PUBLISHER	Springer (Berlin), 2006
REVIEWER	John Lowry
STAR RATING	***

The editor of this compact text in the *New Techniques in Surgery* series (under the overall editorship of John Lumley and Nadey Hakim) is director of plastic surgical research at the Cleveland Clinic. She has brought together 19 contributors from France, Belgium and Germany as well as from four units in the US.

In a short preparation period of less than a year, the challenge was to encompass descriptions of different surgical procedures on a variety of tissue types, by experts in the fields of plastic, orthopaedic, hand, aesthetic and general surgery. The editor, in turn, also wished to ensure that creative contributors would share their new techniques, with a link between recently established procedures and alternative surgical options that were up to date at the time of publication.

In the preface there is the stated aim of demonstrating options that are 'technically possible and experimentally proven but not applied clinically on a routine basis or even – as in the case of face transplant – not performed at the moment'. It must, therefore, have proved a little disappointing that a team at Amiens in France carried out the first partial facial transplant before the book was completed and has subsequently reported its work in *The Lancet*. It is also unfortunate that in the chapter covering the clinical application of composite tissue allografts the reference cited for the world's first tongue transplant is not from the team that performed the procedure.

Nevertheless, as the editor points out, we are witnessing major changes in the field of tissue surgery and there is no doubt that the rapidly developing new techniques have already stimulated not only surgical, but also philosophical and ethical, discussions that are likely to continue for some time. The editor is to be congratulated on successfully blending clinical and laboratory surgical research with advances in other scientific developments including the role of stem cells in surgery and the introduction of gene-modifying techniques in this field.

Technically, this hardback book is well presented on glossy paper and illustrated with colour photographs and

diagrams including endoscopic images, for example, of nerve branches in the cubital tunnel in the forearm and of the elbow during procedures for the management of radial tunnel syndrome. There are up-to-date references with, where appropriate, more historical ones at the conclusion of each chapter and a helpful general index at the end of the book.

Clearly, the initial aims of the series' editors have been well met and there is no doubt that this text will be of interest to all those from a number of specialist backgrounds who are anxious to keep up-to-date in the field of reconstructive surgery.

Cranial Nerves: Functional Anatomy

STANLEY MONKHOUSE

EXTENT P/H	147 p, paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£24.99 0521615372
PUBLISHER	Cambridge University Press (Cambridge), 2005
REVIEWER	StJohn Crean
STAR RATING	***

This book is pocket-sized, with a soft but sturdy cover and clearly identified titles on the front cover and spine. The inside cover contains a description of the book, highlighting the functional approach to the contents.

There are five parts covering organisation of individual cranial nerves and four functionally based topics focusing on the role of cranial nerves during the passage of food through the head and neck. The author has made it clear that the drive for the book is on the clinically useful rather than academic completeness. A note to the reader warns that previous knowledge is needed and also targets undergraduate students in dentistry, medicine and speech therapy, while offering support for postgraduate physicians and healthcare practitioners interested in head and neck medicine.

Part I describes the organisation of cranial nerves. The style of the text is conversational, which helps to remove the daunting formality usually associated with the topic. Essential definitions are addressed before explaining cranial nerve motor and sensory nuclei, tracts and brain stem relationships. The style is relaxed, so much so that for the first time this reviewer has encountered the term 'etc' used in an anatomical text! Figures add supporting information for the more difficult concepts, focusing on the schematic in favour of the anatomically accurate. Overall, the aims are achieved and the reader advances onto the next parts with a sound basis.

Part II commences with a general description of cranial nerves, designed around their role in key functions involved

in the eating and swallowing of food. Starting with cutaneous sensation and chewing, the text describes the Vth, VIIth and XIIth cranial nerves. While the detail is broad, the depth does at times fall short of that expected in the more specialist practices such as dentistry and head and neck surgery. Issues such as the sensory nerves involved in supplying maxillary teeth, description of the muscles of mastication and the area of tongue sensation detected by trigeminal nerve branches are the most notable omissions. The facial and hypoglossal nerves are covered accurately and succinctly but surgeons with an interest in parotid gland surgery will be surprised to hear that facial nerve injuries incurred during surgery rarely recover!

Part III deals mainly with swallowing and speech, focusing on the role of the IXth, Xth and XIth cranial nerves. The topics covered are wide, informative and well written but the depth at times does fall short of the level expected in most postgraduate specialist examinations.

Part IV deals with taste and smell, with very good illustrations of the parasympathetic pathways in the head and neck. The sympathetic system is also well described but suffers from the lack of a suitable illustration.

Part V finishes the book by looking at vision and balance. The intricacies of various reflexes are very well covered and the supporting diagrams are an essential adjunct. The role of the IIIrd, IVth and VIth cranial nerves in extra-ocular function is not covered although the various reflexes of the pupil are worthy entries. Balance and hearing, a traditionally complicated topic, is well addressed and presented in an understandable fashion.

Each chapter finishes by giving excellent examples of the clinical impact of some of the nerves covered at each stage. This is valuable for the newer student and those still confused by the impact of the information provided. The reading lists provided are reasonable but it does seem strange that no mention is made of Last's *Anatomy*, which has provided the bulk of the information in the field to the majority of those entering a surgical career.

So to whom would this book appeal? For the candidate revising for examinations who had reached a point where larger texts had lost their appeal, this text would allow for a review of facts fast fading and serve to refocus the mind on the important issues. However, the reader would need to be aware that of necessity for a book of this size the depth falls short in some crucial areas. For this reason, it could not be a first choice for those beginning their studies, as candidates may find themselves short of the required knowledge level, especially dental students. Its content and size does make it a worthy companion for pre-examination revision but the warning that some prior knowledge is a benefit is something of which the reader should take note.