This is particularly useful for presentations. There are also links to resources on interactive surface anatomy, case studies and self-assessment multiple choice questions. These are a useful means of re-inforcing anatomical concepts in preparation for examinations.

The clarity of expression of its text, colour artwork and layout is excellent. Anatomy is such a difficult discipline and many textbooks include complex drawings that complicate the subject.

This book is thorough and yet succinct in its expression, without loss of relevant detail. It is not only to be recommended as an excellent companion for undergraduate medical students but also for candidates of the intercollegiate MRCS diploma.

Expert Guide to Pain Management

BILL MCCARBERG, STEVEN PASSIK

EXTENT P/H	358 p, paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£25.95 1930513615
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REVIEWER	Ian Waite
STAR RATING	***

This is one of the latest titles from the American College of Physicians 'Expert Guide' series, aimed at primary care physicians. Other titles in the series include *Allergy and Immunology*, *Infectious Diseases*, *Oncology*, *Otolaryngology* and *Rheumatology*.

The first point of note is the obvious, but important, fact that this is an American book intended for an American reader. The information offered, therefore, has a very American slant to it and will need interpreting with this in mind. Advice about the basic clinical management of patients is largely transferable but areas covered by the book involving social, economic and organisational issues will require careful interpretation and possibly further reading.

The book starts with a detailed discussion of the pathophysiology of somatic, visceral and neuropathic pain under the

chapter heading 'Chronic Pain as Disease: The Pathophysiology of Disordered Pain'. In the first chapter the authors quickly address the concept that chronic pain is a disease rather than just a symptom. This sets the tone for the whole book in that we are constantly reminded about the multidimensional nature of pain, particularly chronic pain.

The second chapter covers the management of low back pain with particular emphasis on how to assess patients who present with new-onset symptoms. The chapter makes reference to the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research guidelines on acute low back problems in adults, published in the 1990s. British readers, however, will be more familiar with the report on back pain published by the Clinical Standards Advisory Group in 1994. The guidance is broadly similar but cross-reference will need to be made with the UK guidelines.

The book goes on to cover further clinical areas such as headache, osteoarthritis, fibromyalgia, neuropathic pain, pharmacological treatments and injection-based treatments. The latter part of the book is devoted to issues such as disability management, psychosocial factors, addiction in pain management and specific areas of US practice, for example appropriate documentation and Drug Enforcement Administration investigations.

Each chapter is supported by many references that guide readers needing to research the subject matter in greater detail. The text is illustrated by a small number of black and white figures that are adequate but, ideally, I would have appreciated more illustrations. An example of an opportunity to include further illustrations is the chapter on fibromyalgia, which would have benefited from a diagram identifying the 18 potentially tender points of this condition.

Overall, I feel that this book is an up-to-date, informative addition to the ever-expanding literature on pain management. I would recommend it to practitioners who already have a basic understanding of the topic in the UK as the American context of the book needs to be frequently taken into account. The intended audience of primary care physicians will include the new cadre of general practitioners with a special interest (GPwSI), which are being appointed all around the country. I would expect these GPwSIs to find the more in-depth sections to be of particular value.