BOOK REVIEWS

Ann R Coll Surg Engl 2008; **90**: 533–535
doi 10.1308/003588408X321521

Musculoskeletal Imaging: A Teaching File, 2nd edn

FELIX S CHEW, CATHERINE C ROBERTS

EXTENT P/H	550 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£70.00, 0781757541
PUBLISHER	Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins (Philadelphia), 2005
REVIEWER	K Davda
STAR RATING	*****

Part of the Teaching File educational series, this comprehensive book is authored by two American professors of radiology. It is aimed primarily as a companion for radiology trainees as a reference and revision tool for American board examinations; however, its wide coverage of musculoskeletal pathology will also appeal to trainees in orthopaedics.

The book comprises eight chapters based on a single anatomical region of the skeleton from hand and wrist down to foot and ankle. Each chapter presents up to 60 cases covering a spectrum of pathology from trauma, metabolic and endocrine conditions to regional manifestations of systemic disease. Each case is presented with a brief history and the associated imaging from plain radiographs to CT and MRI. A description of key radiological features differential to final diagnosis follows, concluded by a review of the aetiology and pathophysiology of the case.

The format of each case mimics the style of a typical radiology meeting that, as an orthopaedic trainee, one often approaches with a sense of dread. Each case presentation helps the reader build a method of analysing a radiological image to arrive at a sensible differential diagnosis. The images are clearly laid out and emphasise the pathology at hand. The text is written in a simple and effective style that concisely delivers information that is clinically relevant without burdening the reader with heavy 'examination' facts. Each case takes 1–2 pages and can be read in a few minutes. In particular, the authors successfully explain the reasons behind specific radiological features, be it the mechanism of injury in trauma or the pathophysiology in neoplastic disease. Within a short space of time, the reader can begin to describe and tackle the daunting task of deciphering images of conditions that at first seem complex and confusing, for example bone tumours, with accurate proficiency.

A further strength of the book lies in the manner in which it can be used. In its entirety, it provides an exhaustive range of orthopaedic pathology; as a reference text, it is well organised with cases easily located by either anatomical region or pathological condition. Alternatively, its style lends itself favourably as a self-test revision aid. Although it is sizeable it is not cumbersome in subject matter and I

found it ideal as a constructive use of time during idle moments on call or in between operating cases.

It is difficult to find fault with this book. It fulfils its remit of introducing musculoskeletal imaging to the inexperienced reader in a manner that is enjoyable without being laborious. For the orthopaedic surgeon, it must be remembered that the book is aimed primarily at radiologists and does not intend to include the specific management of the cases it describes. It is also assumed that the reader has prior knowledge of terms used to describe the radiological features of bone lesions such as 'expansile' or 'permeative'. I would, nevertheless, have liked to have seen a short introduction that formally provides for the reader a recipe for dissecting musculoskeletal images, for example, in the form of a checklist or algorithm.

In summary, this is an excellent book which does not have many rivals in the breadth of topics covered and the effective manner in which it delivers the facts at hand. I would recommend this to any orthopaedic trainee for whom it would be an extremely useful and long-standing part of a book collection. It would also be a welcome addition to any postgraduate medical library where it would serve anyone from radiologists to rheumatologists with an interest in the subject.

Medical Interviews and Professional Development, 2nd edn

CHINMOY K MAITY

EXTENT P/H	171 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£19.95, 1846190800
PUBLISHER	Radcliffe Publishing Ltd (Oxford), 2006
REVIEWER	Indu Mitra, Vivek Wadhwa
STAR RATING	****

It is that time of year again. Junior doctors have frantically applied for jobs and are anticipating interviews. The aftermath of the Medical Training and Application Service has meant that training posts are in high demand. Those fortunate enough to be short-listed need to be well prepared for the interview. We have been to many interviews through our training equipped with our *curricula vitae*, logbooks and with a little interview practice from seniors together with haphazard reading around of current political/specialty affairs. Nowadays, the interviews have become more structured. Many have become complicated ordeals involving sections testing both personality and clinical know-how. We believe that interviews should be treated as an examination, with preparation being the key to success. Various juniors have asked us for advice regarding interviews and we have recommended this book.