There are various books on the market that tackle the issues raised in interviews. However, as a busy clinician, it is difficult to find the time to go through reams of text and such detail is seldom required. Chinmoy Maity, a medical registrar, wrote the first edition based on information he had collected from various sources for interview purposes. The second edition has been thoroughly revised and updated to take into account current legal, ethical and social issues.

It is divided into sections covering medical interviews, medicolegal issues, medical ethics, medicosocial issues, clinical governance, research, publications and statistics. Each of the sections starts from the basics and, since no previous knowledge is required, it is an excellent book for all levels of trainee. For example, the medical interview section begins with the structure of the interview process, moving on to useful guidelines on presentations and answers for the commonly asked questions including the duties of a doctor, the poorly performing colleague, complaints procedure, business plans, *etc.*

Although written by a physician, the book is also useful for the surgical trainee. The medicolegal issues covered tackle consent, defining capacity, competence and confidentiality. Clinical governance is comprehensively explained and related to current practice. The book handles up-to-date issues in the NHS. Topical subjects including the European Working Time Directive, Modernising Medical Careers, the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board, Primary Care Trusts and the National Patient Safety Agency are all discussed in an easy-to-understand, bite-sized manner.

Although the days of critically appraising a paper as part of the interview have gone, statistical questions are still the make-or-break questions in interviews. Ever wondered about the difference between descriptive, inferential and diagnostic statistics? This book makes statistics simple and relevant to clinical practice. It has taken all the parts of statistics that are relevant and usually asked about and simplified them into answers that are easy to read and understand.

Overall, this book has been a life-saver with regards to preparing for interviews. It provides the knowledge required to give extra confidence. The style of writing makes it a pleasure to read. The volume of text is made manageable by the various figures and bullet points. This also makes it good as reference material and as a last-minute refresher book. We would definitely recommend it as a building block on which to prepare for interviews. Though it lacks up-to-date information on the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme and the implications of the Tooke Report on surgical training, it is nevertheless comprehensive enough for all grades from house officer to consultant surgeon. We regard this book as one of the most valuable investments we have made.

MRCS Picture Questions: Book 1

TJUN TANG, BV PRAVEEN

EXTENT P/H	216 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£27.99, 1857757491
PUBLISHER	Radcliffe (Oxford), 2006
REVIEWER	John Winstanley
STAR RATING	*****

Preparing for an examination is not only a question of having a suitable knowledge bank but also involves having some experience and rehearsal in answering questions and organising knowledge. This book, which is the first of a series, provides that experience in the form of a picture quiz; although primarily aimed at the MRCS examination, it would be a suitable basis for anyone studying surgery including undergraduates.

It is divided into five sections: lumps and bumps, upper gastrointestinal with hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery, vascular, head and neck, and neurosurgery. Each section has a series of clinical pictures focused around a topic together with a list of questions similar to those encountered in the MRCS examination. The answers are provided on the other side of the page.

The breadth of questions is such that, while this would not be a substitute for a standard text, it does nevertheless provide a very comprehensive overview of most topics, which acts as a checklist to the main features with a prompt to the salient points. As the authors point out, with changes in junior hours and working practice it may prove difficult for trainees to see every condition, particularly the more obscure ones. This book fills that gap very well and reminds trainees of their existence and importance. It would be a useful purchase for both surgical trainees and undergraduates. There is little one can fault in it.

Get Through MRCS: Anatomy Vivas

SIMON OVERSTALL

EXTENT P/H	200 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£19.95, 185315668X
PUBLISHER	RSM Press (London), 2006
REVIEWER	Roger Stevens
STAR RATING	***

Simon Overstall's revision aid, *Get Through MRCS: Anatomy Vivas*, is aimed at candidates preparing for the oral section of the intercollegiate MRCS examination. It is part of the renowned *Get Through* series of books published by the Royal Society of Medicine Press. Although the author is a