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

registrar in plastic surgery in Australia, he recently obtained the MRCS and appreciates that the anatomy examination is often the most feared component of the *viva voce* examination for this qualification.

It focuses purely on the anatomy component of the oral examination by covering the head and neck, upper and lower limbs, thorax, abdomen and pelvis and the back. It contains specimen questions based on actual anatomy orals, using colour photographs of prosections, diagrams, X-rays and scans and is supplemented with model answers and explanations to aid the learning process. It also provides some useful advice on how to behave during the oral examination. This book will instil more confidence in the candidate who is preparing to tackle the anatomy oral.

This superb book is highly recommended to those candidates preparing for the intercollegiate MRCS diploma. It skillfully fulfils the need for a book dedicated to the anatomy oral.

Get Through Accident and Emergency Medicine: MCQs

AMY HERLIHY

EXTENT P/H	140 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£22.50, 1853156949
PUBLISHER	RSM Press (London), 2006
REVIEWER	Chris Brookes
STAR RATING	****

Thorough and relevant examination preparation is an essential prerequisite to a successful professional career. With the introduction of Modernising Medical Careers, the ability of the postgraduate doctor to navigate the appropriate examination pathway successfully at the first hurdle is even more important.

Get Through Accident and Emergency Medicine: MCQs will provide an excellent introduction to the examination technique necessary to pass the multiple choice component of the emergency medicine examination. The organisation of the book into several separate, but appropriate, sections (trauma, orthopaedics, medical, *etc.*) ensures that the student gains maximum benefit from the series of questions. The answers together with associated short commentaries are listed after each particular discipline's questions.

As an established emergency consultant involved in preparing colleagues for examinations, I found the questions to be unambiguous and relevant. They were sufficiently challenging to improve the candidate's knowledge base but pitched at a level commensurate with the standard expected in the multiple choice component of the examina-

tions. This was indeed a view shared by a number of junior colleagues who also gave their opinion on the publication and its quality and usefulness, also demonstrated by the queue of prospective emergency clinicians who wanted to borrow the book to assist in their own preparation.

I was also impressed that the book provided some pertinent revision tips and sensible advice with respect to multiple choice questions, the examination formats and techniques with respect to emergency medicine. My only recommendation is that perhaps a future edition may incorporate slightly longer commentaries to support the answers. However, this does not detract from my opinion that this book will be invaluable to any candidate preparing for postgraduate emergency examinations and should be an integral part of any colleague's preparation for these.

Basic Science for the MRCS

ANDREW RAFTERY, MICHAEL DELBRIDGE

EXTENT P/H	440 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£26.99, 0443101094
PUBLISHER	Churchill Livingstone (London), 2006
REVIEWER	Roger Stevens
STAR RATING	***

Basic Science for the MRCS is aimed at candidates preparing for the intercollegiate MRCS examination and is a concise revision guide focusing on the core basic sciences of anatomy, physiology and pathology. Its content has been distilled from the best-selling parent volume, *Applied Basic Science for Basic Surgical Training*, also written by the senior author. Although it focuses on the basic sciences, it does emphasise their clinical relevance where necessary.

This conveniently sized and reasonably priced book is divided into three sections covering each of the three core basic sciences. It presents the fundamental knowledge of the basic sciences for the written and *viva voce* sections of the MRCS examination in a thorough and succinct manner in bullet-point format. It is well illustrated with the accompanying figures clearly drawn in black-and-white halftones. These features allow rapid revision of the essential knowledge prior to the examination. This book is a respectable improvement on Raftery's *Applied Basic Science for Basic Surgical Training*.

Overall, it succeeds in fulfilling its objective as a rapid revision of the basic sciences for the intercollegiate MRCS and is highly recommended to candidates for this diploma. It also provides an excellent review of the basic sciences for those in higher surgical training.