Book Reviews

Rutherford's Vascular Surgery, 7th edn

JACK CRONENWETT, K WAYNE JOHNSTON

EXTENT P/H	2,448 pages, Hardback, 2 volumes
PRICE/ISBN	£237.00 9781416052234
PUBLISHER	Saunders Elsevier (London), 2010
REVIEWER	Bob Galland
STAR RATING	★★★★★

Since 1976 'Rutherford' has appeared every five years or so. The current version is huge and provides a comprehensive overview of all aspects of vascular surgery. It is available as both a printed and web-based version.

It is impossible to describe in detail the contents but in addition to what one would expect in a work of this type, there are sections on clinical research methods, arterial pathology and embryology, bleeding and clotting, and operative and endovascular techniques including surgical instruments. The text is divided into sections, which produces a logical sequence of topics. In an attempt to keep the number of pages under control full references can be obtained separately via the web version. Only selected references are included in the text. Monthly updates are also available on the web. These are easily accessed and add new references in abstract form to the relevant sections.

Inevitably, with a large book there is repetition. The editors have structured the chapters by the use of subheadings, which helps greatly in obtaining information quickly from the text. Colour illustrations are plentiful, clear and helpful. They include line drawings, operative and clinical photographs, and a host of radiological images.

Approximately 90% of the authors are from the US and the book is sponsored by the Society for Vascular Surgery. Is it relevant to European surgeons? Is it relevant to vascular trainees? Should it be bought by individuals as well as by departmental libraries? The answer to all of these questions is 'yes'. It should be immediately available to anyone with an interest in vascular surgery since it provides a major source of information relevant to all vascular surgeons whether they are in training or have an established vascular practice.

The editors are to be congratulated on this superb achievement. In his foreword, Rutherford states: 'The intent (of previous editions) was to provide complete coverage of current vascular surgery practice and to produce a book not to be read from cover to cover, but one that could serve as the ultimate reference.' The ethos of the original concept is preserved while advancing the book into the 21st century. This book will serve us well until the 8th edition appears. I thoroughly recommend it.

Breast Surgery: A Companion to Specialist Surgical Practice

J MICHAEL DIXON

EXTENT P/H	328 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£74.99 9780702030123
PUBLISHER	Saunders (Oxford), 2009
REVIEWER	Ramsay Cuttress
STAR RATING	★★★★★

This is an excellent book. The contributors are widely recognised experts with particular expertise in their chapter subjects. What I particularly like about this book is the very strong surgical flavour. Among the wealth of information in breast disease, this book selects and concentrates on topics that are of particular relevance to the modern breast surgeon. In this way I feel that this edition is improved on previous editions, in which there was a lot of information about breast disease of general interest but not of specific surgical relevance.

Initial chapters cover diagnosis and pathology of breast disease, breast-conserving surgery and mastectomy. There is a particularly good section on factors that predict for recurrence following breast-conserving surgery and factors that influence cosmetic outcome. Further chapters describe oncoplastic procedures, axillary management and breast reconstruction. There is then further detail on DCIS, rarer diseases and benign breast disease, with additional chapters on adjuvant therapy, locally advanced disease and metastatic disease. A particular favourite of mine is the chapter at the end on litigation in breast disease, with memorable case vignettes. The chapter on benign breast disease is also very good and includes a section on complications of cosmetic breast surgery, to which many surgeons not performing such surgery will inevitably be exposed.

All chapters are well written, balanced and up to date. In short I would recommend this book to any breast surgical trainee or anyone wanting a refresher on the current evidence base to modern surgical breast cancer treatment.