Book Reviews

Statistics and Data Management: A Practical Guide for Orthopaedic Surgeons

DIRK STENGEL, MOHIT BANDARI, BEATE HANSON

EXTENT P/H	144 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	\$49.95 9783131528810
PUBLISHER	Thieme (Stuttgart), 2009
REVIEWER	Fares Haddad
STAR RATING	★★★★

I was delighted to find such a portable and visually pleasing book on statistics and data management specifically aimed at orthopaedic surgeons. Although the book has three editors and a number of authors they seem to have stuck to a very standardised format and have managed to illustrate what is a very dry subject beautifully. One of the key advantages of this manual over many other statistical texts is the fact that the examples are all orthopaedic as are the illustrations. This would be a perfect guide for the young orthopaedic trainee or refresher for the established orthopaedic surgeon on the basics of statistics and data collection and analysis and is an ideal primer for anyone who wants to set up a study or consider a research question for the first time.

The chapters are well written. The summaries are appropriate. They are well illustrated and most of the salient features in terms of data types and data collection and analysis are covered very nicely. By its nature, this book has to be brief; therefore the outcome section is relatively generic. On the other hand it covers the major bullet points that need to be considered in trial design and outcomes assessment very well.

There are some practical sections that are not typically found in statistics or orthopaedic textbooks. I particularly enjoyed the chapter on spreadsheet and database design and quality, and the section on presentation, which is nicely illustrated. There are some downsides, however. The most glaring is that there is no index and thus it is extremely difficult to find something within the book. There is also sadly no reference to survivorship analysis, which is important to a large subset of the orthopaedic population. This is a useful very portable book for all surgeons who are interested in revisiting the basis of statistics and of study design, analysis and presentation.

Surgical Mentoring: Building Tomorrow's Leaders

JOHN ROMBEAU, AMY GOLDBERG, CATHERINE LOVELAND-JONES

EXTENT P/H	172 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	\$39.95 9781441971906
PUBLISHER	Springer (New York), 2010
REVIEWER	Thomas Armstrong
STAR RATING	★★★★

This book is written by surgeons from Temple University in Philadelphia. It aims to articulate the importance of mentorship in the education and development of young surgeons. The second objective is to provide state-of-the-art and didactic information within the field.

The book is well structured and easy to read, with key concepts outlined at the beginning of each chapter. Each chapter is well referenced and there is a list of useful websites at the end of the book.

On the whole the book does achieve what it sets out to do. The general principles of mentorship are well explained. There are good chapters on the particular aspects of mentoring female surgeons and international medical graduates.

Medical training in the US is also going through many changes, which pose similar but different challenges to those we are facing in the UK. This book falls down for the international market because it is very orientated towards surgery, surgical training and surgical mentorship in the US. Nonetheless, for those who take a keen interest in the theory behind mentorship or indeed educate others, it would provide a very useful resource.