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BOOK REVIEW

Book reviews

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S. Standring (editor-in-chief) (2008): Gray's Anatomy, The Anatomical Basis of Clinical Practice (fortieth edition, Expert Consult: online and print)

Churchill Livingstone, Elsevier, 1551 pages, Expert Consult, ISBN: 978-0-443-06684-9, format 24 × 30.5 cm

In 1858, Dr Henry Gray, a young teacher of Anatomy in London, described the clinically relevant anatomy of the human body in a book entitled *Anatomy*, *Descriptive and Surgical*, which was illustrated by Dr Henry Vandyke Carter, and died 3 years later. With a long history of continuous publication on both sides of the Atlantic, and after several changes of title, presentation and publisher, *Gray's anatomy* became both one of the world's top references on the subject and a remarkable publishing phenomenon. This 40th edition celebrates the 150th anniversary of this work, which was completely rewritten and reworked by a myriad of contributors and now offers online access via Expert Consult.

After a brief historical introduction, the present volume is divided into nine sections. In sequential order, they are devoted to: cells, tissues and systems, embryogenesis, neuroanatomy, head and neck, the back, pectoral girdle and upper limb, thorax, abdomen and pelvis, pelvic girdle and lower limb.

Each section has been reorganized by an editor, expert in the field, assisted by a group of contributors, and scrutinized by a panel of international reviewers. Anatomists, embryologists, cell biologists, surgeons, radiologists and other clinicians have brought their extensive experience to update the text and artwork. Moreover, essential and recent references are given at the end of each chapter of the different sections. The result is a well-documented and clinically oriented state-of-the-art volume.

The presentation of the book is practical and attractive, with identifying colours for the pages of each section. Most of all, it is wonderfully illustrated. The number, the high quality and the large size of the illustrations must be highlighted. In all, there are about 1,800 full-colour figures and more than 120 radiological images. These include diagrams, anatomical specimens, clinical pictures, microphotographs illustrating human histology and embryology, transmission and scanning electron micrographs, as well as radiographs, angiograms, computerised tomography scans, magnetic resonance images, and endoscopic views.

The possibility of online access, allowing to access the entire book from any computer and to download each illustration, must also be underlined.

To sum up, this new 150th anniversary edition of *Gray's anatomy*, which is the first one in full-colour, is quite simply a magnificent work.

B. Grignon

Anne M. Gilroy, Brian R. MacPherson, Lawrence M. Ross (2008): Atlas of Anatomy

Thieme, Stuttgart, New York, 656 pages, 2200 full-color illustrations

This atlas presents very high-quality color figures due to two true artists: Markus Voll and Karl Wesker.

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It is organized into large sections: back, thorax, abdomen and pelvis, upper limb, lower limb, head and neck, and neuro-anatomy.

Each section is organized and closed by a chapter of surface anatomy which will be specially relevant for the student in order to correlate the structures he is looking at or touching with the organs he wants to examine.

The presentation of the cavities of the abdomen and pelvis is particularly clear.

Tables carry a synoptic overview of the anatomical structures and their respective functions.

A very detailed alphabetical index (28 pages) allows a quick direct research about a specific anatomical topic.

At last, this book provides access to a rich website of anatomy, with additional anatomy study material and imaging.

F. Duparc

E.J. Rummeny, P. Reimer and W. Heindel (editors) (2009): MR Imaging of the Body

Thieme Verlag KG, Stuttgart, New York, 672 pages, 1350 images, ISBN: 978-3-13-135841-7

In the language of Radiology, "MR Imaging of the Body" means Magnetic Resonance Imaging of everything with the notable exception of the central nervous system. The authors, all distinguished radiologists or MR physicists, most of them practicing in Germany, have succeeded in the difficult challenge to cover such a great amount of knowledge with a remarkable homogeneity. Actually, each of the 10 chapters of this almost 700 pages book could justify a single textbook in itself.

The book is introduced by a section on the basic principles of MR which itself includes an efficient summary on physics and another one dealing with the main components of a magnet. In the section regarding contrast media, the authors did not get onto the recently described nephrogenic systemic fibrosis, but this may be related to the delay between the writing task and the edition process.

Sections 2–9 are encompassing each of the following topics: head and neck, chest (including a very complete section on cardiac imaging), female breast, abdomen, pelvis, lymph nodes, peripheral skeletal system, vessels.

Each of those sections provides an excellent overview of MR findings observed in the most prevalent diseases. Technical aspects and interpretation keys are provided along with relevant illustrations. For teachers and students, a summary called "MRI specifics" is available and easily identified by its bluish background. Key messages are also highlighted in blue colour in the margins.

The last chapter is an overview of the forthcoming capabilities of whole body MR imaging, whole body MR angiography and high field imagers at 3 T.

This textbook provides an excellent introduction to the great issues of contemporary Human Body MR Imaging. It can be strongly recommended to radiology residents and medical students, as well as to subspecialized radiologists who could require quick updated messages on MR Imaging apart from their own field of expertise. At last, this textbook seems adapted for non-radiologists practitioners interested either by the principles of MR or by the yield of this fantastic imaging method in their clinical specialty.

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Mark Stringer, Seyed Ali Mirjalli (October 2009): Eponyms in surgery and anatomy of the liver, bile ducts and pancreas

The Royal Society of Medicine Press Ltd, London, UK, 208 pp, paperback, £35.00, ISBN: 978-1-85315-685-5

The authors are Mark Stringer, Otago, New Zealand, specialist in hepatobiliary surgery, formerly professor of pediatric surgery and professor of anatomy, assisted by Seyed Ali Mirjalli.

They propose a very large work about the eponyms in hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery and anatomy, from "Abernathy malformation" to "Wirsung duct". Seventy famous names, all over the world, are revisited according to a short presentation frame. The origins of the eponyms are described. Each eponym is completed by original references and further readings. Some photographs are very pleasant and of great historical interest.

The reader can find for example anatomical features and classifications as Couinaud's liver segments, duct of Santorini, cytology as Kupffer's cell or islets of Langerhans, surgical procedures as Kocher's incision or Whipple pancreaticoduodenectomy, pathological conditions as Laennec cirrhosis, semiological and clinical signs as Murphy's.

A 12-page index provides a quick access to the alphabetical presentation of these eponyms. Over the pleasure of a long page of history of medicine, this books help to understand that a sign taught in few minutes, or a name daily used in practice, are the results of long researches and observations.

The Terminologia Anatomica and Terminologia Histologia remain the references in Anatomy, Histology and Cytology, but necessarily free of eponyms. This book will be of great interest for anatomists, surgeons and physicians.

F. Duparc

Horia Muresian (2009): The clinical anatomy of the coronary arteries. An anatomical study on 100 human heart specimens

Editura enciclopedica, Bucharest, hard cover, 191 pages

The author, Dr H. Muresian MD, PhD, is cardiovascular surgeon (Bucharest, Romania, and Milano, Italy) and involved in anatomy. He has gathered a large amount of photographs of human hearts dissections, since more than one decade.

In chapter 1, the introduction is enriched with a 10-page section devoted to the International Anatomical Terminology.

The chapter 2 is related to the embryology of the heart, and provides a clear presentation of the development of the coronary vascular system. The following chapters 3, 4, 5, and 6 present in a logical organization founded on the anatomy the structure of the coronary system, with main coronary trunks, collateral circulation, connections in the system, and coronary anomalies and variations, respectively. The reader follows the arterial pattern of the heart, with short text and numerous high-quality photographs, for illustrating the morphological aspects, and figures and schemes (explaining the functional aspects). A special mention must be made for the chapter 5, in which the variations and "anomalies" are very clearly reviewed with synoptic tables and schematic drawings in a rare understandable presentation. After having read these chapters, the chapter 7 presents the myocardial bridging, with nice angiographic aspects during systole and diastole.

The chapter 8 concerns the vascularization of the intraventricular septum and the main septal branch. The pictures are exceptional. The chapter 9 presents the vascularization of particular cardiac areas: atria, sinuatrial nodal branch, atrio-ventricular node, left and right bundles of His, pulmonary infundibulum and aortic root, mitral and tricuspid subvalvar muscular apparatus.

In the chapter 10, the coronary "circles" are depicted, and the anatomical specimens contribute to the easy understanding of the anatomy of the sulcus and the running epicardial trunks and branches.

The chapter 11 is fundamental in a functional point of view by showing the territories of the right and left coronary arteries. One could imagine the aspects of the related ECG when looking at the serial scans of dissected hearts: the different areas of coronary blood supply are well delineated and can reflect an ischemia and its effects about the myocardial electric topographic activity.

Dissecting 100 human hearts for studying coronary arteries provides also very nice pictures of the walls and cavities of the organ.

Each chapter is completed with pertinent references. An alphabetic index provides an easy access to the different parts of the book.

Researching in the lab some replies to the questions stated in the clinical practice has been Dr Muresian's main objective since a long time: this is really clinical anatomy, and the goal is achieved. His book is a great invitation for clinicians to perform regular research for a continuous increasing of their knowledge and abilities.

F. Duparc