BOOKS RECEIVED

How to Find Work That Works for People with Asperger Syndrome. 2004. By Gail Hawkins. Published by Jessica Kingsley Publishers. 319 pages. C$26.50 approx.

Carotid Artery Stenting - The Basics. 2009. Edited by Jacqueline Saw. Published by Humana Press. 276 pages. C$200 approx.

Head, Face and Neck Pain: Science, Evaluation, and Management - An Interdisciplinary Approach. 2009. Edited by Noshir R. Mehta, George E. Maloney, Dhirendra S. Bana, Steven J. Scrivani. Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 722 pages. C$185 approx.

Neuro-Ophthalmology Illustrated. 2009. By Valérie Biousse, Nancy J. Newman. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. 614 pages. C$95 approx.

CNS Cancer - Models, Markers, Prognostic Factors, Targets, and Therapeutic Approaches. 2009. Edited by Erwin G. Van Meir. Published by Humana Press. 1284 pages. C$180 approx.

BOOKS REVIEWED

Sensation and Perception. Second Edition. 2009. By Jeremy M. Wolfe, Keith R. Kluender, Dennis M. Levi, Linda M. Bartoshuk, Rachel S. Herz, Roberta L. Klatzky, Susan J. Lederman, Daniel M. Merfeld. Published by Sinauer Associates, Inc. 460 pages. Price C$130 approx.

When I showed the textbook of Sensation and Perception (by Wolfe et al.; 2nd Edition) to a lawyer friend, he immediately wanted to borrow it. I can understand the broad appeal of such a book and its title although I often distrust them. My enthusiasm at this time, however, has completely turned around. I have to admit this is simply a piece of beautifully created artwork that I have no problem to recommend to anyone.

First and foremost, the overall content of the book and the subjects and notions it covers are appealing to broad audience. They are not only scientifically and carefully chosen for their essential and fundamental importance to understanding and learning sensory physiology and perception. I like very much the way the content are organized and introduced in the text. They are explained with impeccable clarity and fluency. By using the data and figures of original publications, the views expressed by the authors are conveyed to the students with facts and numbers instead of personal opinions and unsubstantiated speculations. Although the book is heavily about vision and visual science, this somehow turns into a well-balanced benefit. For example, in discussing audition, the frequent citations and comparison with the visual system provide a seamless and coherent link between the two systems and at the same time facilitate memorization.

The second point I am impressed with by the book is its illustrations. Color, color and beautiful colors. Clearly the authors understand its weight and have anticipated and taken the advantage of the sensation of their readers. These colorful illustrations are simple, uncluttered and right to the point with text explanations of the key notions on the side. Frequently, I found I could refresh myself about the subjects by just referring back to the figures beside it while escaping large blocks of text.

Any shortcomings? Of course. Personally I don't like to be distracted while the joy of reading is suddenly (and frequently) stopped and be told by some faint green pointers to visit the World Wide Web for further explanation. For some topics at least, why not just give us your final answers in the book, either as footnotes or in smaller prints and leave the online materials for animations and illustrations. Feed the baby when it is still hungry! Finally, this textbook, as good as it is, gives little space describing the knowledge gaps and unknowns in sensation and perception and the exciting possibilities of discoveries lying ahead. After all, a teacher who fails to inspire is a failed teacher and a writer who failed to inspire is a failed writer. So please inspire!

Bin Hu
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The Cerefy Atlas of Cerebral Vasculature. 2009. By Wieslaw L. Nowinski, A. Thirunavuukarasuu, Ihar Volkau, Yevgen Marchenko, Val M. Runge. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. CD-ROM. Price C$225 approx.

This CD contains more information about the cerebral vasculature than anyone in clinical practice really needs to know. As such, it is an incredible resource for anyone interested in cerebral vascular disease, and can be used to impress colleagues and friends alike. It is, however not for the faint of heart.

It starts with a sophisticated, 3D colour-coded model of all the cerebral arteries and veins, upon which can be superimposed their names (with the click of a mouse), 3T MRI slices, MRA images, and surface renderings of the brain and ventricular system at any angle or slice location desirable. The beauty and realism of these images elicited comments such as " nice picture", "beautiful" and "where did you get that image?" from colleagues passing my

workstation. One cannot avoid having a better understanding of the relationship of these vessels to brain structures after even a cursory viewing of this "electronic dissection". A sidebar containing the names of all the vessels can be used to highlight, add or subtract a whole vascular distribution, vascular segment or small branch vessel. These can be rotated, magnified and panned to your heart's content. A drop down menu allows you to read about the anatomy and variants of any highlighted vessel from a number of standard reference texts, and will provide a comprehensive list of recent and original references. You can save and steal images for your PowerPoint presentations at will. Just to make sure you are paying attention, there is a test function, which will grade and humble even the most experienced cerebrovascular navigator.

Minor quibbles include the dryness of the reference textbook pages after the computerized legerdemain of the images, and the lack of any clinical correlation to spice up the sometimes-overwhelming anatomical detail. Although this CD is an excellent example of how anatomical information can be delivered in the digital age, it is actually faster to Google "artery of Bernasconi and Cassinari" or "vein of the lateral recess of the 4th ventricle" than it is to load the CD and find these vessels. It will, however, give you wonderful 3D images and should be a part of every neuroradiology library. Newton and Potts, while lamenting another nail in the coffin of printed textbooks, would be impressed, but don't plan on remembering all the information contained on this impressive CD at once!

David M. Pelz
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Surgery of the Pediatric Spine. 2008. Edited by Daniel H. Kim, Randal R. Betz, Stephen L. Huhn, Peter O. Newton. Published by Thieme Publishers, New York, NY. 876 pages. Price C$400 approx.

"Surgery of the Pediatric Spine" is a comprehensive book exploring almost all aspects of spinal disease that occur in the pediatric patient. Previously, most reports regarding pediatric spinal surgery have been dispersed throughout general pediatric surgery books typically limited to either a neurosurgical or orthopedic focus. The editors have successfully brought together a diverse group of authors who are leaders from both surgical fields to supply a balanced review of all the necessary topics that represent a rapidly developing subspecialty surgical care domain. This book now effectively becomes the authoritative reference for pediatric spine surgery.

The book has 66 chapters divided into 11 sections. It begins with two sections that first review spinal development and basic clinical issues, followed by a comprehensive examination of essential surgical approaches to the spine and spinal cord. Section 3 consists of 10 chapters dealing with congenital anomalies and developmental disorders including Chiari malformations, most spinal dyspraphic states, and 3 chapters reviewing lumbar disc herniation, spinal stenosis, and spondylolithesis. Spinal neoplasms are covered through five chapters in Section 4, including a review of the spinal manifestations of neurofibromatosis. Vascular malformations, inflammatory and infectious diseases are comprehensively covered in seven chapters. The next three sections deal with pediatric neuromuscular diseases, pediatric spinal trauma, and pediatric spinal deformities and their management. These 16 chapters in these three sections define the most substantial meeting point of neurosurgical and orthopedic spinal surgery, especially in the realms of pediatric spinal trauma and scoliosis management. Complementing these sections, are the 17 chapters that follow dealing with special surgical techniques for treatment of spinal deformity, including sections on endoscopic spinal surgery and VEPTR expansion thoracoplasty. One minor deficit is the all too brief final chapter that reviews some of the issues relevant to rehabilitation of children with spinal cord injury.

Overall, this book is an excellent resource that provides a broad look at the current state of pediatric spinal surgery. It should be considered valuable for any orthopedic surgeon or neurosurgeon who has an interest in pediatric spinal disease and will remain a valued reference for many years as the field continues to evolve and mature.

Mark Hamilton
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Neuroscience in Medicine. Third Edition. 2008. Edited by P. Michael Conn. Published by Humana Press. 816 pages. Price C$170 approx.

Neuroscience in Medicine is a large (816 pages), expensive ($170.00) text book. It consists of 33 chapters, of which the majority would be considered as addressing basic neuroscience topics. There is also a companion CD-ROM with sections devoted to neuroanatomy, neuropathology and neuroimaging.

The preface to this 3rd edition is disappointing. It fails to indicate the primary audience for which this book is intended and although it comments on having added new material compared to previous editions, the reader, who is not familiar with previous editions, is left wondering what is new.

As with most multi-authored texts, there is considerable variation in the amount and the degree of detail on topics in different chapters and overlap of material in some chapters. Chapter authors appear to have had considerable leeway in writing their chapters for this 3rd edition. For example, some chapter are as short as ten pages (ie: the Vestibular and Gustatory Systems respectively) while the chapter on the Hypothalamus has 58 pages. At the end of some chapters Selected Readings and/or References are outlined while other chapters do not list any. In some instances the newest material referenced is from 2000 while other reference material as recently as 2007 is listed.

In the chapter on Neuropathology, I failed to see how having 25 of the 49 figures devoted to the classic neuropathology of stroke meets the comment in the preface that this book focuses on "emerging and important areas that could not be found in a more generalist text".