

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!

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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 dysraphic states, and 3 chapters reviewing lumbar disc herniation, spinal stenosis, and spondylololthesis. 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.

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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”.

Except for two color plates (which for unclear reasons also appear in black and white in the two chapters from which they are taken), all other figures or photos are in black and white. The reproduction of some of the photos is poor (especially in Chapter 33 on the Neuropathology of Disease). A number of the photos in Chapters 2 (Anatomy of the Spinal Cord and Brain) and 33 (the Neuropathology of Disease) would have benefited from more complete labeling.

The Clinical Correlation sections at the end of some of the chapters are generally well-written and I believe would be useful for students pursuing neuroscience studies.

More careful editing, amongst other things, would have avoided numerous spelling mistakes, the mislabeling or inadequate labeling of figures, the placing of the section titled Congenital Chromosomal and Genetic Abnormalities at the end of Chapter 31, titled Neural Injury and Repair, and repetition of the material listed under Section 19 of Chapter 22 on Vision (pages

568 – 570) on pages (572 – 574) only now with different headings. The quality of the CT and MR images in the CD-ROM is generally poor and in one of the neuroanatomy images the temporal lobe is incorrectly labeled as the occipital lobe.

From my perspective, as an academic clinician-teacher, I would not recommend this book to neuroscience clinicians or clinical trainees to become their basic neuroscience text. I cannot speculate as to whether or not basic neuroscientists or their trainees might be more enthusiastic about it as their basic text.

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