Book Reviews

Board Stiff Too - Preparing for the Anesthesia Orals
Christopher J. Gallagher, Steven E. Hill, David A. Lubarsky. Butterworth-Heinemann, 2000. 352 pages. \$45.00 (U.S.) ISBN 0750671572

Smiling through anesthesia orals would be my suggestion for an alternative title to this informative, non-nonsense book, which is filled with useful, practical information on how to prepare effectively for oral exams. With the help of catchy headers and funny comments, the authors succeed in getting a lot of important information across while preventing sleep and alleviating acute anxiety attacks. The first of three sections concentrates on the general aspects of preparing oral exams: "Practice aloud. Practice aloud early. Practice aloud often." The second and third sections are more specific to the field of anesthesiology. The former offers a very well structured summary of the pertinent information, while never attempting or pretending to be a substitute for existing "classic textbooks". Rather, it helps the reader to convert textbook information/knowledge into organized verbal answers. The last section comprises 30 mock oral exam cases plus a long list of short-answer questions, each followed by a clinically oriented answer. The almost non-existent referencing throughout the third section is the only weakness worth mentioning about this book, and although I can understand the authors' rationale, I believe that a certain amount of references could have been added without interfering with the flow of the text.

As a former examinee, I could have used such a book. As a current Royal College examiner, I can say that this book is true to the spirit in which oral exams are performed.

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Atlas of Human Anatomy

1 SYSTEMIC ANATOMY, BODY WALL, UPPER AND LOWER LIMBS

2 HEAD AND NECK, THORAX, ABDOMEN, PELVIS, CNS, EYE, EAR

Petra Köpf-Maier (Ed.). S. Karger AG, 2001, 5th edition. Vol. 1, 319 pages. ISBN 3-8055-6852-5; Vol. 2, 447 pages. ISBN 3-8055-6853-3

Presented in two volumes of superb print quality, the Wolf-Heidegger atlas of human anatomy is aimed both at students in the preclinical and clinical stages of their studies and at clinical practitioners. The standard illustrative material is presented in colour throughout and structures are named according to the new internationally accepted "Terminologia anatomica". The first volume covers systemic anatomy, body wall, upper and lower limbs while the second covers head and neck; thoracic, abdominal and pelvic viscera; pelvic diaphragm and genitals; central nervous system; visual organ and orbital cavity and, finally; vestibulo-cochlear organ.

In addition, an important feature of this atlas is that it presents, side-by-side, classic anatomical sections with the corresponding radiographic plates, computerized tomograms, magnetic resonance images or ultrasound pictures, as appropriate. This should be especially helpful to those who want to learn, or teach, procedures that require an intimate knowledge of anatomical structures, such as major vascular access or regional anesthesia. In summary, this is a outstanding atlas of human anatomy which will accompany medical students for the duration of their studies, whatever their field of interest or specialization. Clinicians in practice should consider adding this atlas to their personal library or, at a minimum, to the department's collection.

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