

## Book Reviews

### **GENETICS FOR ENT SPECIALISTS: THE MOLECULAR GENETIC BASIS OF ENT DISORDERS (GENETICS)**

Dirk Kunst, Hannie Kremer, Cor Cremers  
London: Remedica Publishing, 2004  
ISBN: 1 901 346 64 1 £25 EUR40

An unexpected benefit of editing book reviews for *JLO* is that, occasionally, I feel obliged to read something that could easily have escaped my attention. A radical purge of junk in my office revealed this book, which had languished ignored for weeks having been subjected to what passes for my 'filing system'. So it came to pass that I spent Easter guiltily reading what I thought would be very hard going.

I was pleasantly surprised to find a very well written, even entertaining, book; not the usual dry stuff of lists of genes and bizarrely numbered chromosomes, with lots of 'q's and misplaced enthusiasm. Don't be put off by the first page of the Table of Contents, which does list DFNA1 to 39 and DFNB1 to 29 for individual attention as causes of hearing loss. Even here it is fascinating to see how the clinical picture varies with each, or to ask why deafness due to mutation of DFNB21 has only been found in one Lebanese family!

In Chapter 2, syndromic hearing impairment is covered in marvellous detail. Now, I know that osteogenesis imperfecta is manifest as Types I-IV, but then so is Waardenburg syndrome. Indeed, the list of eponymous syndromes throughout is a challenge and a worry to any simple clinician!

The layout of this paperback favours scanning and quick reference. There is a good index and a huge (essential reading) glossary. Each condition carries subheadings covering clinical features, age of onset, epidemiology, inheritance, chromosome/gene/mutation, effect and diagnosis. Counselling issues conclude each description and are particularly well discussed.

Such basic science is a 'hot topic' for all postgraduate examinations, but this is better than a simple crammer or reference book. It actually makes for a very thought-provoking good read and, at £25, will not break many budgets. It incidentally reproduces colour clinical pictures, monochrome imaging and electron microscopy to a standard that would do credit to more famous multi-volume, and far more expensive, works. Highly recommended.

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#### **Erratum**

*JLO*;116:746, the name of the lead author of the letter entitled "Ear involvement in systemic lupus erythematosus patients: a comparative study. *J Laryngol Otol* 116:103-7: should read: J Jiménez-Alonso.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this error.