

OTOLARYNGOLOGY: BASIC SCIENCE AND CLINICAL REVIEW

T R Van De Water, H Staecker
Stuttgart: Thieme, 2005
ISBN 0 86577 901 5 Price €79.95 CHF 132.00

This two-author text is based on the basic science course taught at the New York Academy of Medicine. On first impressions, it is an imposing book (60 chapters in 760 pages), but these fears ease as you realize that it is soundly ordered, well presented and easy to work through. Each individual chapter has a nice contents summary which helps relocate sections that require revisiting.

The first thing that struck me was how readable the book is. Each chapter can be read in about 30 to 45 minutes, ideal after a day's work, and nothing is written in such a complex or highbrow fashion that you lose your concentration to less cerebral matters. The book does cover absolutely everything, from embryology, immunology and anatomy through to the physiology and physics of hearing and voice and the principles of radiology and radiotherapy. The principles of many surgical procedures are also clearly explained.

The basic principles are an excellent start. There are some real gems in the chapters covering lasers, clinical genetics and oncology. Each of these chapters is succinct and comprehensive and I was surprised to find so many clinically relevant points, which I find a useful aid in remembering basic scientific principles. Self-test questions and relevant references end each chapter. (Those for the oncology chapter cover all the large studies on chemoradiotherapy that trainees are supposed to know.)

This is not a 'quick pick up between cases' but is however a superb book that could be used as a comprehensive revision tool or as a reference for all otolaryngologists. I would highly recommend it to all specialist registrars throughout their training. However, I feel there is a particular niche for this text – the currently proposed MRCS otolaryngology examination. I understand that this is to be a predominantly basic science-based examination, and the college would do well to recommend this book as a comprehensive core text.

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VOICE AND COMMUNICATION THERAPY FOR THE TRANSGENDER/TRANSSEXUAL CLIENT

R K Adler, S Hirsch, M Mordaunt
San Diego: Plural Publishing, 2006
ISBN 1 59756 012 X Price £55

This book represents a most useful resource for therapists working with this small but complex client group. It provides a highly comprehensive approach to all aspects of therapy, starting with a thorough examination of evidence-based practice principles in voice therapy, whilst acknowledging that the evidence for the effectiveness of voice therapy is generally weak. Although the authors have aimed the book at therapists who have developed some competency in working with transsexual and transgender clients, it is an excellent tool for those developing an interest in this field.

The psychosocial and psychotherapy chapters consider in detail the social and psychological issues and how they interact with therapy. Standards of care and treatment plans provide appropriate and achievable therapy goals, with the aspects of pitch, intonation, rate, volume, syntax, pragmatics and semantics being supported by useful graded therapy exercises. The chapter on the assessment and training of nonverbal communication is a particularly valuable resource. The accompanying CD demonstrates useful therapy examples.

Overall, this book represents excellent value for money and, although written from a North American perspective, provides the therapist with a framework with which to plan effective treatment.

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Erratum

JLO 120:3 pages 200–4

The author wish to apologise for a mistake in the fourth authors name. This should read Hakký Muammer Karakas, and not Muammer Karakas as printed.