

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, Dharendra 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 CEREBRY 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