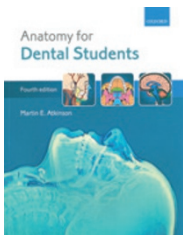


Book reviews

Books, videos, CD-ROMs, DVDs and any other relevant items submitted for a review in the BDJ should be addressed to:

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ANATOMY FOR DENTAL STUDENTS, 4TH EDITION



M. E. Atkinson
Oxford University Press
price £49.99; pp 384
ISBN 9780199234462

This popular undergraduate text has undergone extensive modification and redevelopment, resulting in this fourth edition. This aims to provide the reader with a detailed understanding of human anatomy relevant to the trainee dental practitioner.

The book is divided into four main sections including developmental anatomy, the thorax, the central nervous system, and head and neck anatomy. This useful breakdown allows the reader to work through the text in a logical order, mastering the basics before concentrating specifically on anatomy relevant to daily working life in the dental profession.

Anatomy textbooks can often be overbearing with pages of either non-stop text or illustrations but this book has struck a good balance with providing the right ratio of information in various formats. The page layout is also appealing with dual columns and regular information boxes or illustrations, allowing for the natural flow of each chapter without seeming arduous.

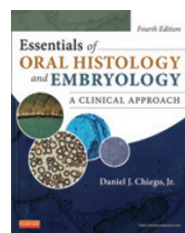
Throughout, there are numerous colour illustrations that allow the reader to visualise the anatomical concepts. For example, each bone of the skull is given a unique colour, which is repeated throughout the illustrations. This continuity reinforces information and makes it easier for readers to engage with the text.

Another feature added to this edition is the clinical application box. This links not only interesting but clinically relevant information to the anatomy, thereby encouraging the reader to develop vital skills in relating disease processes to clinical anatomy.

By focusing on development and structure of head and neck anatomy this book is perfectly suited to its intended audience, the undergraduate dental student. It also acts as a good recap for the postgraduate clinician. Overall, I found this book very enjoyable and easy to read. As it is an extremely user-friendly text I'd have no hesitation in recommending it to others and feel it would be well-placed in the collection of any aspiring dentist.

J. Flexen

ESSENTIALS OF ORAL HISTOLOGY AND EMBRYOLOGY: A CLINICAL APPROACH, 4TH EDITION



D. J. Chiego Jr
Elsevier
price £51.99; pp 256
ISBN 9780323082563

This basic science text, now in an updated fourth edition, provides a clear and comprehensive guide to understanding a complex but essential part of the dental curriculum. As such, it is aimed mainly at an undergraduate dental population but can also be used as a postgraduate reference text.

This 256-page book is split into 16 easily navigable chapters, laid out in a comprehensible chronology. Initial chapters clearly explain basic cell biology and how this relates to struc-

ture and function. Complicated topics such as head and neck embryology, amelogenesis, dentinogenesis, tooth eruption and problems associated with these processes are also tackled in a structured format. Subsequent chapters provide detailed anatomy and histology teaching related to all dental and periodontal tissues as well as other masticatory apparatus structures such as the temporomandibular joint and salivary glands. Concluding chapters include a useful overview of plaque biofilms and calculus and a comprehensive glossary.

Each chapter incorporates learning objectives and 'key terms' that help the user to identify and learn how to use difficult terminology in the correct clinical context. New additions such as 'clinical comment' and 'consider the patient' boxes respectively provide supplementary clinical information and allow the application of theoretical knowledge gained to practical scenarios. Interesting 'quandaries in science' inserts increase awareness of ethical, philosophical and controversial issues surrounding each chapter's theme.

This text's real strength lies in the use of a wide variety of high-quality images, which include histology slides, micrographs, radiographs and clinical photos. Wherever possible, colour schematic representations are included that vastly improve understanding of key points. Tables and diagrams used throughout the text summarise information and explain important processes and content. A further selling point is the ability for users to access a wealth of online information including a question and image bank, presentations, web-links and interactive exercises free of charge.