

# Book reviews

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## SALIVA AND ORAL HEALTH, 4TH EDITION



M. Edgar, C. Dawes,  
D. O'Mullane  
Stephen Hancocks Ltd  
price £25.00; pp 168  
ISBN 9780956566836

*Saliva and oral health* helps capture the readers interest in what is commonly regarded as a dry subject within the field of dentistry (excuse the pun). The revised and updated fourth edition of this well-known and popular text is as informative and user friendly as previous versions. Its release follows considerable advances in salivary research since the publication of the previous edition in 2004.

The book is split into eight easy to navigate chapters. Each of which is well written and guides the reader through a clear introduction to a concise 'clinical highlights' summary at the end, which would be particularly useful to the busy practitioner in need of a quick reference to any aspect of oral health influenced by saliva.

Initial chapters include an introduction to salivary gland anatomy and physiology, detailing mechanisms of salivary secretion. Factors influencing composition and flow rate are clearly explained with the use of tables and diagrams to aid the readers' understanding.

The subsequent chapters take the reader through the protective effects of saliva and the implications of gland hypofunction and xerostomia. The use of tables listing possible causes and complications of gland hypofunction, and paragraphs detailing treatment options available are of significant use

in assisting the dental practitioner's management of patients experiencing dry mouth. Additionally, the inclusion of an example patient questionnaire to help establish a diagnosis of xerostomia is a particularly useful tool.

Notably, throughout the book the reader's understanding of impaired salivary function is strengthened by the use of clinical photographs to display the various clinical presentations, such as gland enlargement and secondary caries. Although one criticism is that some of the clinical images are a little too small and of poor resolution.

In conclusion, this is a well laid out and concisely written publication that clearly conveys the authors' knowledge to the reader. The text claims to be aimed at the 'progressive and inquisitive practitioner'; however, I feel it would also be useful for undergraduate and postgraduate dental students alike. In particular this would be an essential addition to the bookshelf of any dental practitioner with a special interest in the field of oral medicine

L. Hunter

## NON-METALLIC BIOMATERIALS FOR TOOTH REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT



P. Valittu (ed)  
Woodhead Publishing  
price £145.00; pp 432  
ISBN 9780857092441

This book is a presentation of cutting edge research and evidence-based developments in non-metallic biomaterials for tooth repair and replacement. Its aim is to inspire students, clinicians

and researchers to learn advances in the field and consider current, evidence-based research findings. It guides clinicians on how to provide a reliable replacement for anatomic loss by implementing treatment modalities that preserve and parallel the natural biology. The authorship is diverse and includes well known names from across the globe, and the editor is a world renowned author of numerous publications in the field of dental biomaterials.

Thirteen chapters are split into three distinct but related sections. Section one features the unique physical properties of enamel and dentin. The author details the biomineralisation and biomimicry of tooth enamel in which some preceding beliefs and teachings are challenged. The second section details the properties of ceramic dental biomaterials, sol-gel bioactive glass ceramics and its numerous applications in dentistry. The third section details in depth composite restorative materials, which include antibacterial composite materials and composite-based oral implants.

The beginning of each chapter starts with an abstract, which discusses the topic mentioned and its relevance, to aid the reader in the application of the information. New key words are also introduced. It then gives a concise introduction that is then divided into subtopics, explored to a great depth in a logistical fashion and heavily referenced. The illustrations and diagrams aid understanding of the subtopics, with footnotes providing a useful outline of each figure. Conclusions summarise at the end of the chapter and the reference lists offer the chance for further reading and analysis.

The book highlights the evolving nature of non-metallic biomaterials in dentistry. The reader is made mindful of the importance of acknowledging progress in the field and the value in responding to advances in the theory underpinning the method of tooth repair and replacements. This is a stimulating, informative read with a constructive purpose, delightful to study in its entirety and easy to dip into.

This book is a valuable addition to any dental library and is an essential reference for both undergraduate and post-graduate students, researchers and fully qualified dentists wishing to consolidate their appreciation of non-metallic biomaterials and keep abreast of advances in the field. It certainly encourages the current and future generations to investigate and prove these concepts and ideas wrong or to push them forwards.

P. Raphy

### ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL MEDICINE: THE BASIS OF DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT, 3RD EDITION



C. Scully  
Churchill Livingstone  
price £49.99; pp 448  
ISBN 9780702049484

This is a fantastic and beautifully progressive book. However, it is no real surprise as Professor Scully's previous two editions excelled. The first edition was awarded first prize for a new authored book in 2004 by the Royal Society of Medicine and Society of Authors, and the second edition was highly commended in the British Medical Association Book Awards in 2009. It is fair to say he has not disappointed with a third edition. Ever open to suggestion, the author asked his readers for areas of improvement but was puzzled when he received none! Not wishing to accept this, the third edition is built on peer recommendations. It discusses cutting edge areas of adverse drug reactions and genetic influences in oral facial disorders.

The brilliance of this book for me is its accessibility. There are now clearly delineated 'learning aims and objectives'

alongside the original 'intended learning outcomes'. These help those using this publication as a textbook. However, for clinicians wanting to utilise a quick, easy, accessible reference book complete with pictures and flow charts for ease of diagnosis then this book will prove valuable too.

For the busy GDP this book is a must for the bookshelf; it provides everything from handy, pull-out information for patients to history-taking and examination skills. Refreshingly, there are also useful mnemonics. For example, the causes of mouth ulcers can be remembered as the amusing, 'So Many Laws and Directives' standing for 'Systemic, Malignancy, Local and Drugs'. This allows for logical diagnosis and treatment planning.

Importantly, there is a new section dealing exclusively with cancers and potentially malignant disorders. This, coupled with the reordering of the already excellent material on common complaints and important orofacial conditions, instantly helps when deciding the urgency of any referral.

For those who find themselves in a hospital setting, the additional information regarding treatment agents is useful. The book also indicates a level of evidence when deciding on treatment agents for patients. This is important as many are prescribed 'off-label'. In addition to this the useful websites listed at the end of chapters provide an electronic extension for those wishing to explore the subject further.

This publication gives a unique insight into the wonderful mind of its author. It is the product of Professor Crispian Scully's many years of clinical and teaching experience, in the vast and varied field of oral and maxillofacial medicine.

C. Porter

### NOTHING BUT THE TOOTH: A DENTAL ODYSSEY



B. K. B. Berkovitz  
Elsevier  
price £45.99; pp 372  
ISBN 9780123971906

*Nothing but the tooth: a dental odyssey* is described by the author as a collection of

information amassed throughout many years of research and teaching. I have read several of the author's books before and found his writing to be succinct, informative and conducive to learning. This book is no exception. From start to finish, it really is hard to put down. This may be because the book focuses mainly on dental topics that are not required to pass exams or influence clinical practice. The book takes the reader through a whole host of interesting dentally relevant areas and is not rivalled in any other text out there.

The book takes the reader through anatomical, anthropological and historical aspects of all things dental and everything in between. The author's passion and knowledge for his subject comes across with every turn of the page.

Chapters take you through the weird and wonderful dentitions of nature and how some more valuable forms were used for ornaments and decorative pieces. Topics covered include forensic testing related to the evolution of animals and locating origins of age old bodies dating back over 5,000 years.

Whilst the book is fascinating, I do, however, feel that it is lacking a little in some parts. The black and white photographs do not do justice to the text. Furthermore a lot of the anatomical photographs have no measure of scale to help the more uninformed reader. I realise some photos are rare and gifted for publication and cannot be altered but having colour where possible would really bring the most out of the book. I found one or two chapters a little hard going, most notably the highly scientific 'you are what you eat' section, which required a little perseverance. I knew a little about forensic dentistry from previous study and I felt this helped me through a long, perhaps slightly overcomplicated, section.

In summary, this book is crammed full of remarkable facts that make it a must read for anyone who has an interest in the broader subject matter. One never knows when the average weight of an elephant molar or which Nobel Prize winning dentists invented anaesthesia will come in handy. I highly recommend a read.

C. Woof