Book reviews

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PITT FORD'S PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING IN ENDODONTOLOGY

S. Patel,
H. F. Duncan (eds)
UK: Wiley-Blackwell
price £49.99; pp 312
ISBN 9781405162111

The problem-based learning approach lends itself brilliantly to the field of endodontology in this highly palatable contemporary text. Conceived by Pitt-Ford and enhanced by the collaborative efforts of numerous noted international authors, the publication carries significant credence.

It is aimed at those who already possess a rudimentary understanding of the theory and practical application of endodontics. Thorough consideration has been given to the formatting, scope and tone of the book. Eight clinical sections of endodontology are examined. Predictable inclusions are 'Aetiology and Diagnosis', '[practical] Endodontic Treatment', and 'Restoration of The Endodontically Treated Tooth'. Less predictable is the incorporation of sections such as 'Non-odontogenic Pain', and 'Trauma', which typically feature more prominently within alternative disciplines, but which in fact sit valuably alongside the above in this context.

Each section is subdivided into concise illustrative clinical scenarios. Within a scenario the reader is guided from exploration of clinical and additional diagnostic evidence, through diagnosis, to eventual clinical management, with considered recommendations for long term review. Factors which lead

to the established diagnoses and the rationale for selected paths of clinical management are presented. Pertinent questions are posed and answered discursively, highlighting fundamental concepts of pathology and pathogenesis as related (in most sections) to the pulp and periodontium and the rationale for the application of techniques and materials to manage the biological or physiological insult and restore function. Manifestly the reader is presented with informative material in stimulating, memorable, easily digestible snaps. Clinical scenarios are directly relatable to issues faced commonly in clinical practice.

Most striking is the section entitled 'Non-odontogenic Pain'. Via evaluation of three cases of persistent pain, the differential facets of musculoskeletal, neuropathic and neurovascular pain are elucidated. A potentially hazy diagnostic area is given clarification, with suggested lines of enquiry and techniques of analysis to enable a diagnosis to be reached.

This book would be an advantageous tool for senior undergraduates in addition to fully qualified dentists wishing to consolidate their appreciation of endodontology and keep abreast of advances in the field, technique and material related, and technological. It would be of great benefit to those preparing for postgraduate examinations, such as MFDS, with its emphasis on problem posing and clinical management and its purposeful omission of exhaustive detail surrounding the methodology of basic orthograde root canal treatment. An exceedingly supportive text.

R. Emmott

OSTEOLOGY GUIDELINES FOR ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL REGENERATION: PRECLINICAL MODELS FOR TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

W. Giannobile, M. Nevins
UK: Quintessence
price £92.00; pp 256
ISBN 9781850972112

The goal of clinical investigation in oral and maxillofacial regeneration is to determine the safety and efficacy of new biologics for the benefit of patients, which requires that researchers select appropriate animal models and corresponding experimental designs to enable the next steps toward human investigation. This book is an important building block in improving knowledge and skills of researchers conducting animal research in oral tissue regeneration. This text guides researchers in creating protocols that lead to meaningful outcomes.

The aim of the book is to provide young researchers with high quality guidelines to conduct preclinical animal research. The book is also intended to serve as a valuable reference for scientists who wish to build on the experience of people with a track record in preclinical and translational research. The first part of the text discusses the basic aspects of animal research including phylogenetics and physiology. It also includes important aspects of ethical and regulatory issues, study design and statistical analysis. It provides tools for implementing effective research strategies and conducting high impact,