

BOOK REVIEWS

Clinical Dermatology, 3rd edn, by John Hunter, John Savin and Mark Dahl. ISBN 0-632-05916-8. Price: £27.50. Paperback: 376 pages and 427 illustrations. Blackwell Publishing, 2003.

Despite easy access to net-based educational resources in medicine, the demand for well structured and reliable publications by distinguished authors is likely to increase. The request for basic and clinically oriented publications in dermatology by young trainees, family doctors and medical students at undergraduate level is no exception. In their book on clinical dermatology, Hunter, Savin and Dahl provide the reader with concise and useful guidance about human skin in health and disease. The text is easy to read and whets the appetite for anyone seeking a succinct introduction to everyday dermatology. The third edition of this highly regarded book is carefully and moderately revised. A new chapter on regional dermatology – covering orogenital and adnexal diseases – is included, and sections dealing with investigational and applied dermatology now give more detailed information on, for example, skin biopsy techniques, dermatoscopy, photodynamic therapy, immune-directed modalities and the use of botulinum toxin. In particular, recent advances in cutaneous immunology have been added to give a clearer understanding of the pathogenesis and treatment of psoriasis

and inflammatory skin diseases. Other progressive areas in dermatology such as contact dermatitis, skin ageing, and physical treatment modalities are updated. The final section on topical and systemic drugs gives a valuable overview of the most commonly used medications in dermatology. Fortunately, the successful structure of ‘learning points’ and simple illustrations is maintained. General readability has improved due to more distinct headlining and inclusion of key references at the end of each chapter. A rich gallery of clinical images systematically portrays the most common dermatoses, although there is room for further improvement of the colour photographs. Despite providing much more information (and 30% more pages) than the original publication, this new edition is not more voluminous and it will no doubt qualify for a handy gap in the bookshelf. The book is highly recommended to anyone calling for a basic and clinically relevant introduction to clinical dermatology.

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