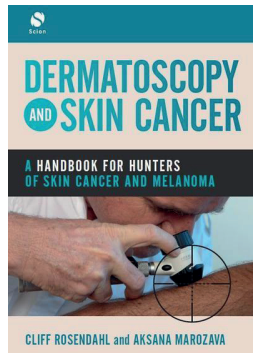


Book Reviews

DERMATOSCOPY AND SKIN CANCER: A HANDBOOK FOR HUNTERS OF SKIN CANCER AND MELANOMA

Cliff Rosendahl and Aksana Marozava. First edition. Banbury, UK: Scion Publishing Ltd; 2019. 386 pages. ISBN 9781911510338. RRP £37.99.



Dermoscopy (sometimes referred to as dermatoscopy) has become a well-established tool for skin lesion assessment in secondary care. It is becoming more commonplace in primary care, yet training for many clinicians can be largely self-directed. This new textbook provides an invaluable resource for new and improving students of dermoscopy both to read and reference. It offers a methodical and comprehensive guide to understanding dermoscopy and using it to assess skin lesions.

The authors intentionally concentrate on the recognition of skin malignancies and are practical in focus; they provide instruction for clinicians on the systematic examination of the skin, and on dermoscopy decision aids to assist in determining how lesions should be safely and appropriately managed.

As a student of dermoscopy myself, I found two features of the book particularly commendable.

First is its simplicity: the writers assume no previous familiarity with dermoscopy, but begin by thoroughly addressing the fundamentals of the science behind dermoscopy and skin microanatomy. They clearly define the terms used to describe dermatoscopic findings, helping the novice to understand and adopt terminology used in the field.

Secondly is its images: the range of high quality pictures is impressive, and paired dermatoscopic and clinical photographs of the same lesions allows readers to compare the salient features from both perspectives. The large number of images allows an appreciation of the variation that exists between lesions of the same diagnostic type, which is important in preparing for dermoscopy use in clinical practice.

Later chapters discuss the specific dermatoscopic features of many types of lesions, and are admittedly more complex, but these are not essential material for the successful use of the simpler dermoscopy decision aids. For novices or generalists whose everyday practice does not include large volumes of skin lesions, these chapters are useful for reference but may be more difficult to fully absorb.

The attention given to some benign lesions is more limited, but this is admittedly not the primary purpose of the authors, whose main focus is skin cancer. Therefore while an excellent book for generalists, those wishing to become dermoscopy

experts may wish to consult additional texts. However, the breadth of material included and the clarity of writing have created a book that I suspect will be highly influential in its field, with the potential to become a standard reference for students of dermoscopy.

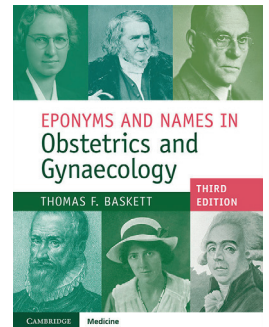
Dr Jonathan Fee

General Practitioner

Dr Fee has collaborated with Cliff Rosendahl in secondary research.

EPONYMS AND NAMES IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

Thomas F Baskett, 540 pages, Publisher: Cambridge University Press 2019, ISBN 978-1-108-42170-6, RRP £ 99.99



Throughout the history of medicine, eponyms have been used to honour the individuals who played a major role in identifying either anatomical structure, pathophysiology of a disease or discovering a new technique. Very few specialties have a more extensive eponymous background than obstetrics and gynaecology although the fascinating work done by the great individuals behind those names is often forgotten or unappreciated. Thomas F Baskett fills this gap by uncovering the stories behind some of the greatest figures in the specialty in whose steps we follow through his book "Eponyms and Names in Obstetrics and Gynaecology."

Educated at Belfast Royal Academy and graduated from Queens University Belfast in 1964, Thomas Baskett emigrated to Canada in 1970. In addition to working as the professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Dalhousie University in Halifax, he has served as president of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada and the Canadian Gynaecological Society. His interest in history of medicine developed in 1990s leading to completing the Diploma in History of Medicine from the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London in 1997 and he was the 2008 History Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Eponyms and Names in Obstetrics and Gynaecology brings a human touch back to the specialty and provides due recognition to the pioneers in the field. The book makes the names of some of the significant characters memorable through the context and portraits provided. This is one of the two books he published on the subject and is the only one currently available.

The book provides biographical data as well as the outline of the work of 391 pioneers in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology and related specialties such as paediatrics from 34 countries. Not only the outline of work, quotations from



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the original work giving an insight into the language used in different eras are also included with a portrait or photograph of the individual and related instrument when appropriate. Where available, the original and related references are provided with a bibliography of linked references to assist readers interested in more details on individual subjects.

It has been enlightening to read the stories behind some of the famous names and procedures in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology, ranging from Apgar score, Bandl's contraction ring, Burns Marshall Manoeuvre, Fits-Hugh and Curtis syndrome, Sheehan's syndrome to Wertheim's hysterectomy. This book provides an insight into the evolution of the specialty not many doctors in training are familiar with, and this would definitely be a guide to whoever is interested in making their teaching sessions to trainees or medical students more entertaining.

Dr Janitha Costa

Consultant Obstetrician.

