

## BOOK REVIEWS

***Practical Dermatopathology, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, by R. Rapini, ISBN: 978-0-3230-6658-7, 464 pages. Elsevier Health Sciences, 2012**

Since the first edition was published in 2005, this textbook has remained by the microscope on my desk. Like the first edition, this edition consists of 30 chapters. The introductory chapter, which focuses on differential diagnostic classification of clinical and morphologic findings, is a great resource for dermatologists in clinical practice as well for the dermatopathologists. The subsequent 28 chapters focus on the main groups of dermatological conditions, and the final chapter describes a number of special stainings.

The book includes about 370 diagnoses and dermatological conditions. Each paragraph begins with a brief clinical description followed by a box of facts, listing typical morphological findings for a specific diagnose. Moreover, lists of variations of dermatological conditions and differential diagnosis are included under each heading. Pathogenesis and treatments are excluded.

The ingenious layout makes it easy to find the information, makes the entire book easy to read, and provides an excellent overview. Everything is skillfully simplified and clearly describes the interaction between clinical symptoms and dermatopathological findings with differential diagnostic considerations that facilitate the path to accurate diagnosis.

In this edition, minor details and errors have been corrected. The index has been extended to include more page references and indicate pages for figures tables and boxes. Microscopic images and new text has been added

to some of the chapters. Over 700, high resolution, full colour photographs illustrate morphological findings with clear arrows and explanatory captions. Additional picture material is now available in a digital version with a large number of microscopic illustrations. Another novelty in the digital version is a series of clinical images.

A total of 42 pages have been added to the second print edition. To fit this edition into a single band that remains portable the reference list has been shortened. To obtain in-depth information about dermatopathology one must consult a more comprehensive textbook. Furthermore, information about normal histology of the skin and hair and mucous membranes pathology must be sought in other textbooks. A recommended bibliography for further reading can be found in the back of this edition.

The book is a very helpful tool for quickly looking up a diagnosis, a symptom or pathological condition, and correlating with microscopic findings and differential diagnostic considerations. The author's strong background in both dermatopathological diagnostic and clinical dermatology and knowledge of interdisciplinary critical interaction for proper diagnosis pervade the entire structure of the book.

I highly recommend this book, especially for dermatopathological diagnostics but it also has a place in clinical practice. This textbook easily meets the expectation set by the title: Practical Dermatopathology.

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