

**BOOKS RECEIVED**

**NEURO-ONCOLOGY: THE ESSENTIALS. SECOND EDITION.** 2008. By Mark Bernstein, Mitchel S. Berger. Published by Thieme. 496 pages. C\$170 approx.

**IN THE REALM OF HUNGRY GHOSTS. CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH ADDICTION.** 2008. By Gabor Maté. Published by Random House of Canada Limited. 465 pages. C\$35 approx.

**STROKE RECOVERY WITH CELLULAR THERAPIES.** 2008. Edited by Sean I. Savitz, Daniel M. Rosenbaum. Published by Humana Press. 166 pages. C\$100 approx.

**ADVANCES AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS IN NEUROSURGERY. VOLUME 33.** 2008. Edited by J.D. Pickard, N. Akalan, C. Di Rocco, V.V. Dolenc, J. Lobo Antunes, J.J.A. Mooij, J. Schramm, M. Sindou. Published by SpringerWienNewYork. 282 pages. C\$240 approx.

**BOOKS REVIEWED**

**THE JOHNS HOPKINS ATLAS OF DIGITAL EEG: AN INTERACTIVE TRAINING GUIDE.** 2007. Edited by Gregory L. Krauss, Robert S. Fisher. Published by The Johns Hopkins University Press. 360 pages. Price C\$147.

This 360-page text accompanying the DVD is divided into three sections: 1) a technical introduction, 2) a large "EEG for Beginners" section, and 3) an atlas section. The atlas is divided into chapters dealing with artifacts, normal patterns in adults, patterns that are benign or of unknown significance, focal and generalized slow patterns, ictal and interictal epileptiform patterns, normal and abnormal pediatric patterns, and a section illustrating the relationship of the 10-20 system of electrode placement to cortical topography.

Several features make this Atlas a useful tool for the nascent electroencephalographer. The "no frills" section on "EEG for Beginners" is excellent. Although touted by the authors as aimed for readers who are completely unfamiliar with EEG, its practical approach and the "EEG principles" in highlighted in italics provide useful learning points for all EEG learners. This section also provides the basis for much of the Atlas content, and EEG learners should keep going back to it as they acquire hands on knowledge on EEG interpretation.

Text for EEG plates is organized in useful sections explaining the clinical scenario, a description of the EEG pattern at hand, its clinical relevance, and a brief listing of related waveforms and clinical patterns. The suggested readings presented in introductory chapters are a relevant compendium of the classic work describing various EEG patterns. The index is useful and contains interesting entries such as over-reporting and under-reporting, which are not commonly found in texts.

The DVD contains an easy to install application which includes clips of actual EEG that can be opened by installing the included Persyst® software. One of the most useful features is the icons with related clinical and EEG patterns. These links allow the reader to immediately compare EEG patterns. There is a self-test section and a small sampling of video EEG seizures. Lastly, there is a section on

advanced EEG, which gives a brief overview of more advanced methods of analysis of EEG data. The addition of the Persyst® software gives the beginner the opportunity to explore the impact of various montages, sensitivities and filter settings. Overall, the DVD is a plus and is one of the features that sets this Atlas apart. For those who prefer reading a book on a screen, the DVD can be used as a stand-alone text.

A few aspects could be improved upon. I personally would welcome more references linked directly to statements in explanatory text for EEG plates. Also, the introductory chapters for each section are of variable usefulness; some are too brief and generic to contribute meaningfully. A few more pages would add substantial value to these sections. Also the montages in the self-test clippings are barely visible in some of the questions, making it difficult to localize the findings in question.

As stated by the editors, the Atlas is not intended as a comprehensive tome on Digital EEG, but rather as an interactive guide for learners of EEG. It is clearly geared to the new learner, a goal which it accomplishes well by introducing the beginner to the world of digital EEG. Because of its focus and content, the Atlas can also be a useful resource for those involved in teaching EEG.

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**COMPREHENSIVE BOARD REVIEW IN NEUROLOGY.** 2007. By Mark K. Borsody. Published by Thieme Medical Publishers. 356 pages. Price C\$85.

This board review book is a 300-page glossy text that fulfills its role as a concise, informative resource aimed at residents preparing for board exams. The book is written in an outline format and provides a vast amount of information that is easily digestible with the help of numerous tables, diagrams, color slides and radiologic