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Book Reviews: Technical Books Section

(Page 6 c - Review by Liz Lim, UK)

...FEATURED BOOK : MAIN PAGE A GOOD COMPLIMENT TO STOCKER AND DEHNER, WIGGLESWORTH, BERRY AND KEELING ...Finally the book finishes with an overview of special procedures and considerations such as EM, molecular techniques, microbiology and organ transplantation and a chapter on infection control and health and safety issues. In conclusion a good compliment to Stocker and Dehner, Wigglesworth, Berry and Keeling... [Main page] Reviews | [1] [2] [3] [4]...

Handbook of Pediatric Autopsy Pathology, 1st Edition, *by* Enid Gilbert-Barness and Diane E. Debich-Spicer, Hardback, acid-free Paper, 11.3" x 8" x 1.2" [Comes with a CD]
Springer, [imprint - Humana], 233 Spring Street, New York, NY 10013, USA ; Publication Date: 28 January 2005. xiv + 531 pages, ISBN-10: 158829224X, ISBN-13: 978-1588292247, E-ISBN 1-59259-673-8. Price $225.00.

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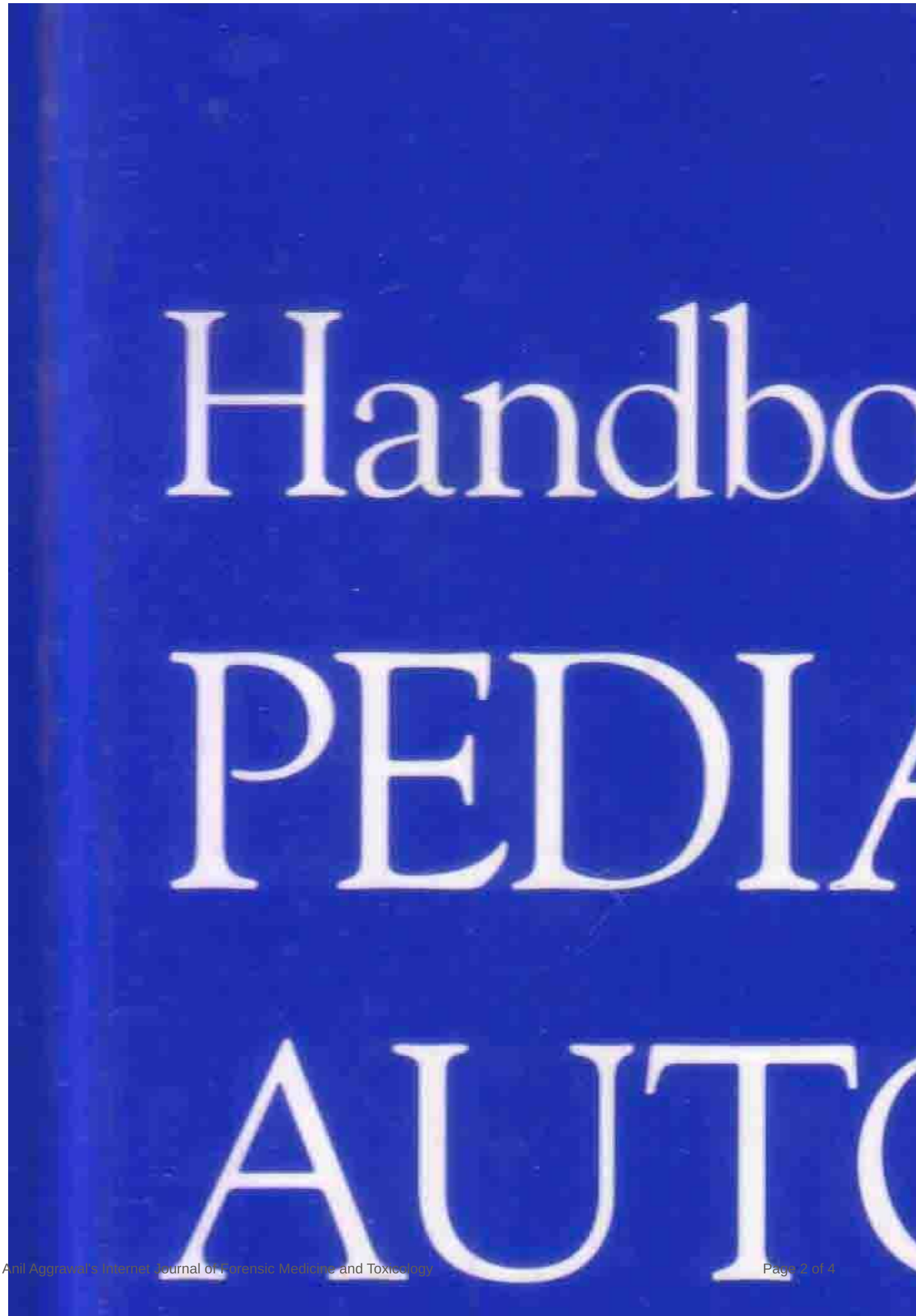
Handbo
PEDIA
AUTO

A very welcome, reasonably priced addition to the shelf of any pathologist who conducts paediatric autopsies at £115. Sourcing reference text books in this specialist field has never been easy as choices are limited and this new modern text with an excellent CD ROM as an additional bonus, should be well received. The CD ROM is compatible on PC and Mac and contains the colour version of the main images in the text, organised into chapters for easy referencing.

For the hospital based pathologist, numbers of autopsies in the perinatal, neonatal and paediatric age range has seen an increase over the years compared to the ever declining numbers of adult hospital autopsies. The need to take great care with regards to dissection technique is an ever constant demand, to ensure that malformations are not overlooked. This pressure comes from the very real implications for potential genetic counselling that the parents may face as a result.

Being complied by Pathologists from Florida, USA, the introductory chapter refers to the Medical Examiner System, however, this should not put the reader off as the book quickly leads into general principles behind the paediatric autopsy that are relevant to all countries.

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Chapter 2 covers in detail the approach to a paediatric autopsy, and although the illustrations are in black and white, they are well labelled, clear and easy to follow (and as mentioned earlier the colour versions are on the CD ROM). The suggested proforma for minimum information to be included in a paediatric autopsy report may well prove a useful reference for pathology departments who are looking to standardise their post mortem reports. A trend that has been seen in the UK especially after the Organ Retention Issues in recent years. Of particular use to all pathologists practicing paediatric autopsies, are the reference tables in the appendices at the end of Chapter 2 that enable the charting of age of the fetus against standard measures such as weight, head circumference, crown rump and heel lengths and foot length.

Chapter 3 provides information about the examination of fetal / embryonic products of conception, a task often bestowed upon general hospital pathologists during a daily workload intake at the ‘cut up’ bench. Helpful pointers throughout regarding approach techniques and again reference tables in the appendices may be of particular use to generalists as well as specialists.

The placenta, which to many pathologists, is much of a nebulous entity, is covered in a succinct style in Chapter 4 that works wonders to elucidate the potential pathology that can be lurking within this organ. Illustrations and diagrams are well thought out and the addition of hand drawn sketches from the late John Emery accompanied by his inimitable signature brings a light hearted interlude to this section of the text book.

…Sudden Infant Death and Forensic Autopsies are covered in the penultimate chapters and provide a good basic working knowledge for the non Forensic Pathologist audience…

Developmental and metabolic disorders constitute the majority bulk of this text book as each individual organ system is tackled in dedicated chapters. Again, illustrations are plentiful and clearly labelled and there are a number of colour plates in the centre of the book.

Sudden Infant Death and Forensic Autopsies are covered in the penultimate chapters and provide a good basic working knowledge for the non Forensic Pathologist audience.

Finally the book finishes with an overview of special procedures and considerations such as EM, molecular techniques, microbiology and organ transplantation and a chapter on infection control and health and safety issues.

In conclusion a good compliment to Stocker and Dehner, Wigglesworth, Berry and Keeling.

-Liz Lim



Liz graduated from Bristol UK in 2000. Worked in Plymouth, Bristol, Leicester, Glasgow and now Dundee, so worked her way up the country! She is a forensic pathologist in Dundee with a penchant for fast cars. . She can be contacted at lizhorrigan@linuxmail.org

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