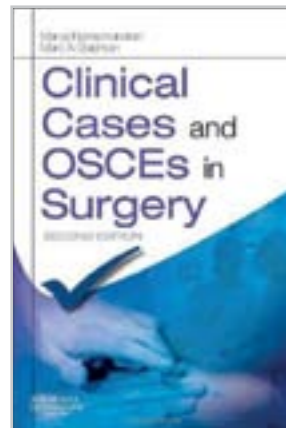


**Benson Chen**

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Benson Chen is a Trainee Intern in Auckland. He is a self-confessed Japanophile and still daydreams about his elective in Tokyo, which he undertook earlier this year. He likes neurology and radiology; and hopes to combine the two in the future!



**Clinical Cases and OSCEs in Surgery (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)**

Manoj Ramachandran  
Marc A Gladman  
Publisher: Churchill Livingstone  
NZRRP: \$70.60

I recently had the opportunity to see Part II candidates of the FRACS undertake mock clinical examinations. Interestingly these examinations were not dissimilar to the OSCE I had completed in my fourth year surgical run; albeit requiring a greater depth

of knowledge and understanding about the topic including operative techniques, risks and outcomes. Underpinning this, these examinations tested the candidate's ability to perform a thorough and systematic clinical examination.

There is no substitute for good clinical examination skills. *Clinical Cases and OSCEs in Surgery* (2nd ed.) by Ramachandran and Gladman is essential reading for any medical student looking for a book to help with just this.

A key strength of this book is its simplicity. Unlike other examination texts, *Clinical Cases* is written to guide the reader how to perform the examination in a systematic step-by-step fashion. Reading this book you almost feel like you are at the patient's bedside, being taught how to examine the patient by a professor of surgery. The step by step instructions

reads like the examiners marking sheet, beginning from the opening line that is given to the candidate eg 'examine this gentleman's neck', right down to the part of the examination where you should stop.

This concise book should be a compulsory basic text for all preclinical students starting on the wards, as well as clinical students undertaking rotations through the surgical specialties. Designed for candidates sitting both the Royal College of Surgeons clinical section as well as undergraduate clinical examinations in surgery, *Clinical Cases* covers over 140 cases encountered by surgical trainees and students alike in surgical OSCEs and short case examinations.

Cases are grouped into five sections and arranged in order of frequency of appearance in examinations. The cases themselves are actual medical diseases, rather than a complaint that a patient may come in with. Each section begins with a run-through of the general examination, however specifics for each case are dealt with individually. Readers should therefore bear this in mind, as in OSCEs and short case examinations, the patient's diagnosis is not usually provided, so the candidate must use all their clinical skills to formulate a working diagnosis early on to perform the correct examination!

For those of us who hate being grilled by our consultants; the answers to commonly asked questions relating to each case are provided. Some surgical history is thrown in as well. Useful tables are provided as adjuncts to the examination, for example the relevant liver function tests and their interpretation are included in the examination of the patient with jaundice.

Detailed photographs and diagrams in full colour accompany each case, illustrating key manoeuvres in the examination. I must admit that I found these to be rather amusing; paint-on anatomy showing how and why an examination technique is performed a certain way. Despite this, the use of photographs is quite sparse. The chapter on superficial skin lesions is completely devoid of photographs of the lesions they are attempting to teach us how to examine.

In summary, this book would make an excellent companion for students undertaking any general surgical, orthopaedic or vascular run. Easy to read, comprehensive, and compact, *Clinical Cases* is sure to help all students, from those starting off on the wards, to those looking to revise before sitting the surgical OSCE and short case.

Both titles reviewed in this issue are available through Elsevier Australia. Visit <http://www.elsevierhealth.com.au/> for more great titles.

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The Editors of the *New Zealand Medical Student Journal* aim to support medical student development, be a forum for opinions and discussion, and publish the educational writing of medical students. To this end, the Journal accepts submissions in the form of original research articles, academic review articles, feature articles including case reports and conference reports, book reviews and letters. The Journal commits to rigorous peer review and freedom from commercial influence.

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Final article selection for publication will be made in conjunction with our academic advisors and editorial board once the review and revision process is completed to a professional publishing standard.

Acceptance of an article into the review process does not constitute a guarantee of publication. It is the intention of the NZMSJ to provide authors with the benefit of external review and revision processes that are standard internationally for published journals. This is in keeping with our educational aim to assist medical students in making the transition from writing for medical school to writing as a graduate.

In keeping with the NZMSJ's ethos of encouraging students to submit articles, we are proud to offer prizes to acknowledge excellent work.

Prizes are awarded under the categories of **Best Academic Submission** and **Best Features Submission**.

We are currently accepting submissions for Issue 14, due for publication in October 2011.

