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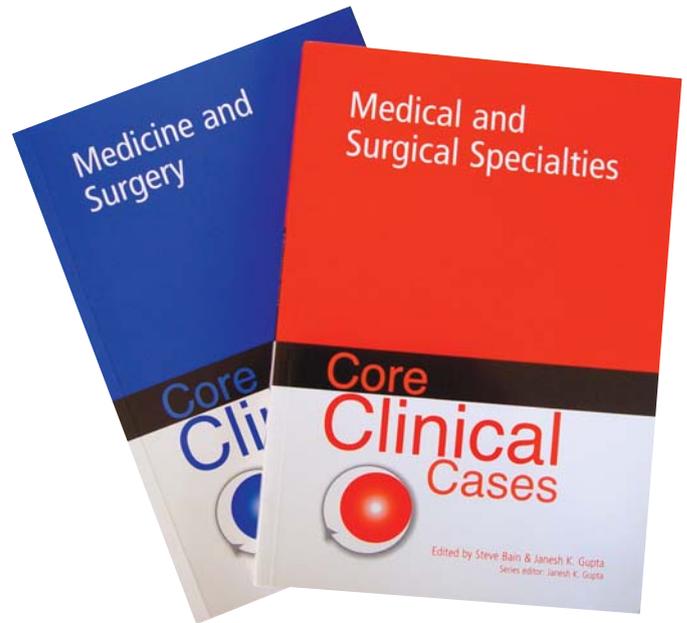
Core Clinical Cases in Medicine and Surgery **Core Clinical Cases in Medicine and Surgery Specialties** Edited by Steve Bain & Janesh K. Gupta, RRP \$45.00 each

Described as a case-based problem-solving guide to core clinical cases, these books encourage medical students to "think of the patient as a whole, rather than as a sequence of unconnected symptoms". Core areas of undergraduate medical study are divided up into common clinical presentations with several different patient scenarios for each. Each clinical presentation begins with key concepts about the problem followed by how the case should be dealt with in a systematic, question-based approach.

Written by various clinicians and medical lecturers, these books are excellent for revision of important clinical cases taught at the level of second and third year medicine. The books outline how a patient would be presented to you, the questions you should ask them, and the investigations you would be required to do in order to gain a differential diagnosis. Once these have been established, the authors go on to explain how to manage the patient plus any other issues to consider.

Each case is quite simplified and the key concepts basically consist of a list of facts about a known condition without explaining the mechanisms behind the particular finding. This would therefore require prior study of lecture notes and other textbooks for a good knowledge base before using these texts.

The topics come across as quite fragmented and are often split into smaller categories. The texts could have been written better by explaining



all key concepts related to a particular clinical presentation at the start of a chapter and then working through several different cases.

Medical students seem to be over-loaded with so many different study options these days so, at a time when exams are looming and you run out of time to be reading over all your lecture notes or required textbook readings, these volumes would come in particularly handy. Rote-learning various facts about a certain clinical presentation and the lab tests essential to reach an accurate diagnosis would certainly guarantee you a pass, but if you are someone who requires an in-depth understanding of problem and cause and enjoys reading detailed texts then these books probably aren't for you.

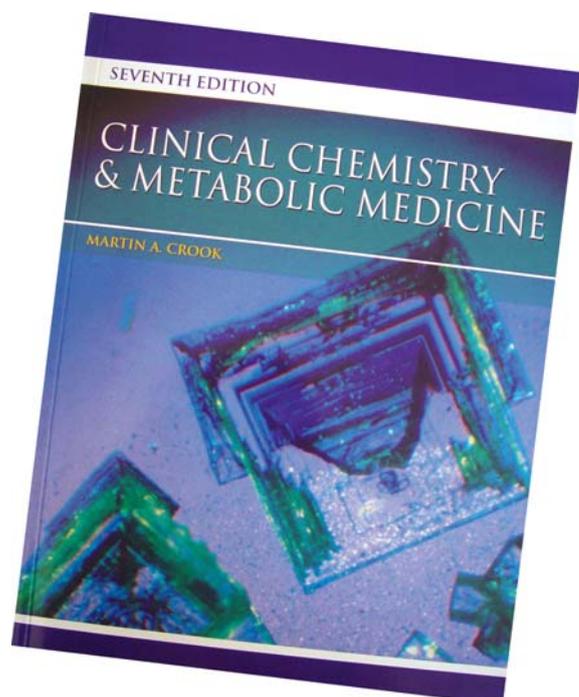
Clinical Chemistry & Metabolic Medicine Martin A. Crook, RRP \$89.00

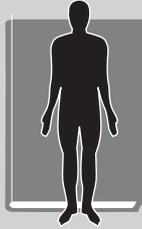
As Martin Crook explains in the preface, this text is largely influenced by the Clinical Chemistry text written by Zilva, Pannel, & Mayne. As the aforementioned text is no longer in print this volume provides an excellent replacement, in fact it has been established as the seventh edition in the series. Each section begins with a comprehensive, physiologically-based explanation of normal function followed by disturbances in a particular part of metabolism, causes and clinical conditions attributable, changes that result from the disturbance, and how the disturbance can be corrected.

This book is clinically based, contains relevant diseases and syndromes as well as recent developments in diagnostic techniques, plus several diagrammatic aids to enhance understanding. It also includes several specific case discussions per chapter to aid in differential diagnosis.

It is easy to read and provides a full understanding of physiological mechanisms that would benefit medical students at several different levels - from those new to the course to postgraduate trainees entering a clinical chemistry specialty. As with Mayne, finding terms or clinical presentations in the index can sometimes prove futile if the particular item hasn't been a point of focus, but if you have a vague idea of what it would be related to then flicking through a chapter isn't too onerous.

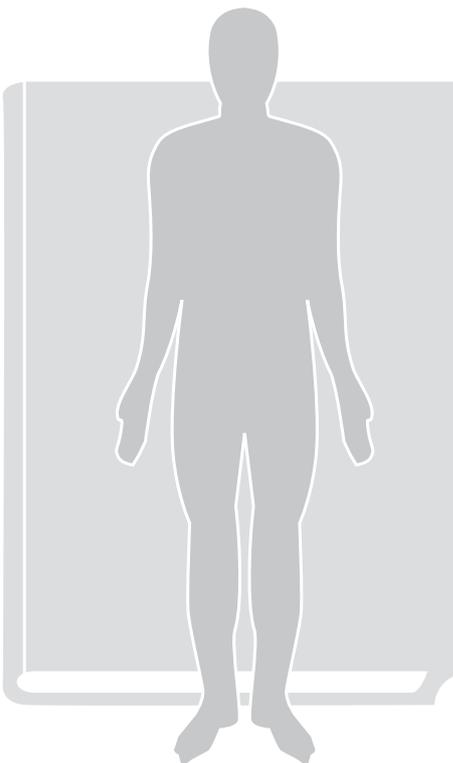
Not a textbook to be reading if you are trying to cram, this volume would be an excellent study companion throughout the year; instead of or in conjunction with lecture notes. Happy reading!





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