

# Book Review

**The Face: Pictorial Atlas of Clinical Anatomy. R. Radlanski and K. Wesker. Quintessence Publishing. 354 pages, 406 mostly colour illustrations. ISBN 978-1-85097-214-3. Hardback £124**

If only this book had been available during my undergraduate and postgraduate training days, my life would have been made so much easier. Whatever your status, field or speciality, this is a must have reference for your bookshelf....

This is the first English edition of the book, which has recently been published from the German edition and I am sure that it will be a publication that it will be around for a number of years to come. It is hard backed, 354 pages long, with two pages of classical and current references, albeit a number of references are of non-English language. The two lead German authors are Ralf Radlanski, a current practicing orthodontist and the Director of Craniofacial Biology at Charite in Berlin; and Karl Wesker, who is a renowned artist and illustrator also based in Berlin. There are a number of other highly distinguished international authors that have contributed to this prestigious publication.

Following the preface to the book, a poignant prologue alludes to how detailed anatomical structures translate to functional anatomy, with each and every person's individual face having a unique set of characteristics that identifies them for who they are. The face is identified as such an important region of the body, with emotional feelings being reflected by facial expressions and the face being "a mirror or our soul". Taken to a next level, the way an individual sees other peoples' faces has such a dramatic affect on the way they communicate and interact with each other. "The face shows not only a spontaneous impression of the person but also a lived identity".

The prologue appropriately sets the scene for how this pictorial atlas aims to bring to life the individual subject throughout the course of the book. Such life-like images are achieved through the meticulous use of layering techniques with photographs overlaid with anatomical illustrations instead of the use of cadaver sections as seen in many other atlases. These layered, sectional images were produced with the aid of magnetic resonance images used as templates, and are such that an in depth understanding and knowledge can be gained from each set of images. A further distinct benefit is that the same point of view is maintained throughout the series of images, which allows the reader to visualize each tissue plane more effectively. All the figures are appropriately sized, clearly identified and labeled, with text descriptions and annotations to describe the images. The text is detailed, but succinct to retain the readers' interest.

The book is divided into six chapters, which has three themes. The first section (chapter one) details the whole

anatomy of the head and neck. The second section is then specific for the individual regions of the orbit (chapter two), the nasal and mid face (chapter three), the mouth (chapter four), and the ear (chapter five). The final third section (chapter six) provides an overview of age related changes that are related to the skin and face.

Chapter one is the most extensive and provides multiple sectional layered images of the head and superficial neck in anterior, lateral, vertical and dorsal views. Fat compartments, muscles, vascular supply and drainage, lymphatics, nervous innervations and the craniofacial skeleton are all detailed. The muscles of facial expression are also covered in a subsection. Each of the region specific chapters (two to five) are subdivided into sections and cover the surface topography, specific close-up anterior, lateral, and caudal views as required. The final chapter (six) looks at age-related changes to the skin and face. This short section has additional histological, photographic and pictorial/ schematic representation of the age related changes that are naturally encountered through life. Having a prosthodontic and general restorative background, it is interesting to see that intra-oral changes ranging from effects on the periodontium to the overall masticatory system are documented, with further discussion relating to the clinical implications.

It was the authors' intentions to provide a textbook that could allow the reader to access information quickly at any time without worrying about reading it in a systematical manner. In doing this they were aware that it may-well impact repetition throughout the book. I don't think this has had any negative connotations, and think it actually enhances the book. The authors are also aware that the book does not describe the complete anatomy of the head and neck as it omits neurocranial anatomy, and the deeper structures of the neck, such as the pharynx and larynx. For these regions supplemental books are required.

In summary, the book would be an ideal purchase for a multitude of disciplines (medical or even non-medical), ranging from students with little or no pre-existing knowledge, to higher specialist trainees needing to acquire detailed anatomical knowledge of the head and facial regions. The particular benefit of the book is the way it brings to life the subject through the multi-layering imaging techniques. It can act either as a stand-alone atlas or a supplemental textbook if further detailed craniofacial or neck anatomy is required.

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