

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

When you are a medical student, finals seem a daunting prospect. However, the truth is that most candidates pass the exam easily and most junior doctors look back at finals as being relatively straightforward. The reason for this is that this exam is simply the last hurdle in a long and draining race and by the time you have reached this point, the odds are with you to finish the course. The examiners are not there to fail candidates per se; in fact, the opposite is true and they are really trying to help you pass. However, they must ensure that a safe junior doctor is unleashed on the public. Because of this fact you must know the basics of all the common emergency situations. Luck plays only a small part in finals for most students and, as someone once said, “The harder you work, the luckier you get.”

The philosophy of this book is to focus on the level of knowledge and the approach that would be expected of the better students arriving at finals. We have tried to include as much as possible without making the book too cumbersome. No book of this scope can include every possible topic, but we hope that we have included all that could legitimately be expected of you for the final exam. The book also contains comprehensive sections on trauma, orthopaedics and urology, which so often get left out of other texts, and a section on fluid balance that may continue to be of use when you are a junior house officer.

The text has been deliberately written in a tutorial-like story format as opposed to a set of lists, since this makes it easier to understand and remember. Everyone loves a list but we must assure you that you are much more likely to remember a list if you have written it yourself. Therefore, space has been left adjacent to the text for you to pick out important

details from the text and jot down your own lists. If you do this as you go along, you will effectively produce your own textbook which will become an invaluable tool, with all you need for success at your fingertips.

Good luck with your revision and the exam, and we hope this book will help.

Andrew Goldberg
Gerard Stansby

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

We were delighted with the positive feedback that the first edition received from medical students as well as many junior doctors who had long passed their final examinations yet still found the book useful in their working lives.

Over the last few years, the world of medicine has moved on with advances in almost every field. With this in mind, we decided to bring the text up to date and to bring in expertise to co-author many of the chapters, especially those in which we were no longer experts! Each chapter has been reviewed and updated by the co-author whose name is listed at the beginning of the chapter. In addition, we have added an entirely new chapter on ENT, making *Surgical Talk* one of the only texts which comprehensively reviews all of the surgical specialities required for final surgical examinations.

We hope that those of you at that scary point in your career, namely just before you start a job in a new specialty, will also find this book a great overview of the subjects you need to know.

The teaching focus of the text remains. It is still full of ‘top tips’ to keep the reader one step ahead of the examiner. Exams are a mechanism to sell books. So consider this book a mechanism to pass exams. All feedback is welcome and we look forward to hearing from you.

Andrew Goldberg
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