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Date: 29 January 2023

Re: Textbook review of: Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

This is a review by Ken K Nischal of the textbook Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus: a Comprehensive Guide to Diagnosis and Management.

Editors Alvina Pauline D. Santiago MD and Marissa N. Valbuena MD, MPHEd with associate editors Michelle D. Lingao MD, and Roland Joseph D. Tan MD, MS, MIH. Published by the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, College of Medicine, University of the Philippines, Manila.

This is quite easily one of the best primers for pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus that I have read in a long time; not only is the book very well laid out with each chapter having summary points at the beginning and a chapter quiz at the end but additionally the chapters are systematic and the reference list for each chapter is extremely comprehensive.

The chapters that would be expected to be basic such as amblyopia and refraction are practical and have a very good summary of all the very latest and very important trials especially the amblyopia trials that have been done internationally. The references to and understanding of genetics throughout the book are excellent but there is also a dedicated chapter on genetics which I think is extremely important in this day and age for pediatric ophthalmologists especially our trainees.

The illustrations by Dr Michelle Lingao are extraordinary and took me back to the days when I worked with Jack Kanski and Terry Tarrant was his illustrator. The illustrations Dr. Lingao does however are schematic and help with the understanding of many concepts especially those of embryology.

I thought that the surgical techniques throughout the book were extremely well illustrated and extremely well explained, and I felt that the balance between pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus was excellent.

This book I think is a must for all residents an absolute must for fellows going into pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus. There is enough room in the book for each trainee to make his or her own notes and I think that this is extremely important because as you train through pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus it is the clinical pearls you learn in the clinics that help augment and cement the learning that you do from a textbook.

In my mind this book rivals the BCSC from the American Academy of Ophthalmology and surpasses it for pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus because of the illustrations and the really very up-to-date information.

What makes it even more special is that it is been written by ophthalmologists and pediatric ophthalmologists from the Philippines who clearly worked together and therefore the editors have been able to write a book which has a nice flow to it without repetition.

I would like to congratulate the editors Dr. Santiago and Valbuena and congratulate everybody who has had a part in putting together what I believe to be an excellent textbook of pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus. I highly recommend this text.

Yours sincerely



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