

BOOK MANAGER'S CHOICE

Evidence Based Medicine Toolkit By Douglas Badenoch and Carl Heneghan. Paperback. 65 pp. Published by BMJ Books. Feb 2002. R189. ISBN 0727916017

Not only does this book tell you how to get started using the essential skills of evidence-based medicine – it does it in the space of just 64 pages, and leaves you feeling confident that you've covered all the angles. The user friendly format guides you in:

- asking answerable questions
- finding the evidence
- critical appraisal

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- study designs.
- a glossary of evidence-based terms
- evidence-based healthcare resources on the web
- levels of evidence and grades of recommendations

Keep the Toolkit at your elbow when you are writing on or appraising papers and reviews, and it will act as an *aide memoire*. If you need more in-depth information, it will direct you where to find it.

Book titles marked* may be ordered directly from SAMA Health and Medical Publishing Book Department, Private Bag X1, Pinelands, 7430, tel. (021) 530-6520, fax (021) 531-4126, e-mail publishing@samedical.org or fpalm@samedical.org.

BOOKS RECEIVED

The receipt of these books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits. The SAMJ does not publish unsolicited reviews.

The Tobacco Atlas. By Judith Mackay and Michael Eriksen. Pp. 128. Illustrated. Sw.fr.30/US\$27. WHO. 2002. ISBN 92-4156-209-9.

Keep Fit for Life: Meeting the Nutritional Needs of Older Persons. WHO and Tufts University School of Nutrition Science and Policy. Pp. viii + 118. Sw.fr.30/US\$27. WHO. 2002. ISBN 92-4-156210-2.

Healthy Villages. A Guide for Communities and Community Health Workers. G Howard, C Bogh, G
Goldstein, J Morgan, A Prüss, R Shaw, J Teuton. Pp. ix + 109.

Illustrated. Sw.fr.22/US\$19.80. WHO. 2002. ISBN 92-4-154553-4.

Handbook of HIV Medicine. By Douglas Wilson, Sudeshni Naidoo, Linda-Gail Bekker, Mark Cotton and Gary Maartens. Pp. xiii + 469. R250. Oxford University Press. 2002. ISBN 0-19-578133-3.

Poisonous Plants of South Africa. By Ben-Erik van Wyk, Fanie van Heerden and Bosch van Oudtshoorn. Pp. 228. Illustrated. R210. Briza Publications. 2002. ISBN 1-875093-30-3.

PSYCHOTHERAPY WITH CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Edited by Helmut Remschmidt. Pp. xii + 588. R900. Cambridge University Press. 2001. ISBN 0-521-77558-2.

This specialist book captures the current state of developments and is also a generalist book that overviews the broad field. It is rationally laid out in four parts: underlying principles of psychotherapy; approaches derived from the important theoretical schools; disorder-specific applications, and the practice of psychotherapy in specific settings. It reflects a concept of psychotherapy that is contextual, developmental and dimensional.

Two specific sections should be highlighted. The first of these is the chapter on interpersonal psychotherapy for adolescents which includes 12 restricted sessions of standardised treatment

of depression for adolescents. It is an approach currently receiving much positive evaluation. The final section is noteworthy as it describes the use of therapy in particular settings, such as in- and day-patient units and at home. However, the flaws endemic to this book are clear from the first chapter. It was originally published in German in 1997 and the poor translation makes for uninspiring and uninteresting reading. Less than 5% of the references are post 1996, dating the material to mid-1990s relevancy. Since the vast majority of the references were originally published in German journals, the information contained in them was inaccessible to some researchers.

In summary, undergraduate students could find this book useful in its overview approach, but it does not compare well to other books in the field.

Willem de Jager

