

Book reviews

Atlas of Operative Laparoscopy and Hysteroscopy, Third Edition

Edited by Jacques Donnez, Informa, London, 2007, 571 pages, \$179.00

Any medical text in its third edition is, by definition, an established success. This work lives up to the bar of excellence established by the previous editions. Professor Donnez has harnessed the energies of 49 international expert authors. As expected for an atlas, the star of the show is the absolutely beautiful plates, almost all of which are evenly and correctly exposed with excellent color saturation and hue. The legends are clear and support the photos well. But the text, while concise, adds greatly to the overall package with current references and clear descriptive narration. Line drawings and cartoons are well chosen to better illustrate certain points, such as the technique for intracorporeal suturing. Chapter 19 deals with the cervical pouch phenomenon, a rare entity to be sure, but the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), radiographic, and hysteroscopic pictures and text are so clear that one could embark on repair of this cesarean section dehiscence with confidence having never seen one before.

I would have liked the discussion of complication management to include more on how to avoid problems. Perhaps laser myomectomy is popular in some circles, but a more detailed treatment of resectoscopic approaches with bipolar devices and vaporization unipolar electrodes is needed. Three chapters dealing with laparoscopic ovarian transplantation are too many; I would have sufficed. Finally, the section on robotic surgery is cursory without discussion of what type of procedure(s) is best suited for these devices. Considering that there are 49 chapters, this constitutes a mild criticism. Although an endoscopic atlas, judicious use of MRI adds greatly to the clinical value of many of the chapters.

Overall, this is sort of a medical coffee table book, one that enthusiasts of gynecologic surgery will enjoy. But it's much more than a beautiful picture book. Expensive, perhaps, but not if quality is a consideration.

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Diffusion of Innovations

Everett M. Rogers, Free Press, New York, NY, 5th edition, 2003, 551 pages

Innovators. Early adopters. Add the demographic groups of beta-tester and entrepreneur, and one seems to have described the attendance roster of the recent AAGL Annual Meeting. When reading this classic social science textbook, an AAGL member recognizes many of its principles, almost intuitively.

There are several ways to approach the book. One may read it cover to cover. One may read the 55 case studies of attempts to diffuse innovations in the realms of agriculture, communications, consumer electronics, medicine, public health, etc. However, the greatest benefit to the lay reader may be that this widely acclaimed book provides the glossary for innovation as a formal academic discipline, the framework of this field of social science, and an exhaustive and authoritative bibliography for additional research.

Its 4 previous editions have received numerous accolades. In 1990, the Institute for Scientific Information designated it as a Citation Classic for the large number of citations in social science journals. In 1996, *Inc.* magazine selected it as 1 of 10 classic books in business. In 2000, it received the designation of Significant Journalism and Communication Book of the Twentieth Century by *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*.

As many of us have tried to evaluate and bring new innovations to women's health, we have encountered obstacles in their adoption. This textbook may provide insights as to how to make your next innovation more widely accepted.

Ralph J. Turner, MD
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Clinical Gynecology

Edited by Eric J. Bieber, Joseph S. Sanfilippo, and Ira R. Horowitz, Churchill Livingstone, an imprint of Elsevier, Inc., Philadelphia, PA, 2006, 1024 pages, \$139.00

Created by the collaborative work of editors Eric J. Bieber, MD, Joseph S. Sanfilippo, MD, and Ira R. Horowitz, MD, with contributions from 109 well-recognized experts, the textbook *Clinical Gynecology* contains exceptionally