

BOOK REVIEWS

Klaus Buckup and Johannes Buckup. Clinical tests for the musculoskeletal system. Examination, signs, phenomena. 3e. Stuttgart. Thieme. ISBN 9783131367938. About AUD\$100

When I was a kid in primary school Ms. Daisley gave the class a spelling test. The old-fashioned kind where she said a word and we wrote it down, hoping to high heaven we'd spell it correctly Ms. Daisley gave the word 'pie.' Don't laugh, I was very young, but I had deep immersion in my father's radio station even then. All I could recall was the name of a record label 'Pye' so spelled it that way. I passed the test.

It goes to show that we carry many things in our mind but we each see them from a different perspective. Hence the value in this book. It has more clinical tests than I ever learned during my chiropractic education which of course means a quantum more than you or I would ever use in practice. Yet now and then we have a patient that puzzles us and we need a different diagnostic approach.

The joy of this book is its arrangement by region. Should you have a shoulder problem then go to the 'shoulder' section. If it is a foot and ankle problem, then, well, you get my drift. The sections are clearly marked so they can be quickly reached. Every procedure is accompanied by thoughtful text that explains not only the process but also its origin, why it is effective, and what results to expect.

As with a previous review in these pages I feel sufficiently bold to note a concern. With this book it is with what they called the 'Reverse Lasègue Test' and my concern is they do not locate the 'nerve root irritation' to the L3/L4 spinal level in the 'headline.' It is buried in the text, which demonstrates the thoroughness and usefulness of this work, but to me it seems basic chiropractic clinical intelligence that is worth giving as a 'purpose' for the test.

But that concern is a small potato in a field of gems, and this book is indeed a field of gems. It should be a mandatory text for every chiropractic student and it must be used to guide teaching. Its comprehension of conditions and clinical tests is encompassing and it represents the level of thoroughness that one now expects from Thieme.

I have taken the stance of only reporting on books that are valuable to the active clinician and this text is an excellent example. It is joyous to note it is also produced in Chinese, French, Greek, Italian and many other languages.

Clinical testing is the language of the body and this work by two medical specialists from Germany captures it beautifully.

Phillip Ebrall, DC, PhD

Markus K. Heinemann. How NOT to write a medical paper. A practical guide. Delhi. Thieme. 2016. ISBN 978-93-85062-29-2. About AUD\$20.

Sometimes the gifts of greatest value come in small packages. This book is an excellent example of that adage. The author has sorted the wheat from the chaff and given us the best of the harvest. And all in just 80 pages or so.

Every reader who wishes to write a paper for this esteemed journal, or another, must read this. It does not tell you what to do, but it tells you how quickly you can make an idiot of yourself by doing all the wrong things.

Hence the beautiful title 'How NOT to write ...'

Were I to have read this in the 1980s I probably would never showed the courage to write and submit my first papers. Reading this book made me reflect on what it was that drove me to think I could 'write a paper.' Worse, I remember after getting a handful published in the early days when my father died before I could share. I took great pride in feeling I was the first in our family to write and publish. On cleaning up his home office I found 2 papers he had written and published in the mid-1940s. Suddenly I felt insignificant. Especially given his topic which was an exploration of the structure of atoms. I never knew that about my old man.

Similarly there is much you do not know about yourself. This book tends to create space for the reader to feel insignificant but in the end it leaves a belief that you really can 'do it.'

Nothing gives a reviewer more pleasure than highly recommending a book. This is one of those occasions. Read it and learn.

Writing a paper is both a technical and an emotional endeavour. So, make a plan. Start with the highest form of evidence relevant to personal medicine, the case study. Pull out a file that interests you and tell a story. We will all be the richer for your effort.

Phillip Ebrall, DC, PhD