

from the mandible often causes drooping or ptosis of the lower lip. With the placement of osseointegrated implants in the anterior mandible, extensive vestibular extension for denture support and retention is not required and 10 mm of mentalis muscle attachment can remain on the mandible. This is usually sufficient to prevent lip ptosis.

Prospective trials have randomly allocated patients treated with complete dentures to either a non-surgical control group or denture provision involving preprosthetic

surgery or implant abutments.<sup>3,4</sup> Patients expressed general satisfaction with the short-term effects of preprosthetic surgery, which can be attributed to the increase in the denture-bearing area.<sup>3</sup> However, in this group the favourable short-term satisfaction rate with their dentures was considerably diminished after 5 years.<sup>4</sup> It is the poor long-term success of denture treatment combined with preprosthetic surgery (and the success of implant therapy) that has reduced the need for preprosthetic surgery.

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BOOK REVIEW

**Oxford Handbook of Applied Dental Sciences.** C. Scully, ed. Oxford University Press Inc., New York, 2002 (642 pp., £19.95 flexicover). ISBN 0-19-851096-9.

The purpose of this book is 'to outline the preclinical sciences as applied to dentistry' and 'to demonstrate why modern medical science is so relevant to clinical dental practice'. It is intended for candidates taking primary dental qualifications (BDS, DDS and perhaps the IQE) and postgraduate diplomas such as MFDS. The book has 58 chapters, written by 27 authors, and the content is arranged in eight sections: Anatomy and Development, Physiology, Biochemistry, Genomics, General Immunology, Pathology, Microbiology and Behavioural Sciences. (Regrettably, Pharmacology was omitted because of lack of space.)

The book provides a good, concise summary of many of the traditional preclinical topics. Information is presented in a condensed and fairly didactic manner, which I fear may encourage rote-learning, rather than deeper understanding. In several chapters, the text is augmented with diagrams, but no references are included. The text appearance is rather daunting, and I feel this could be improved by a larger typeface. The index is good, and listed most of my

sample of test words. As promised, the book does state the clinical relevance of many topics. In some chapters, the clinical application is included in the body of the text (e.g. aetiology of dental developmental abnormalities) while, in the Anatomy chapters, 'Clinical Relevance' boxes are used. Most of these are helpful, and this format could have been adopted throughout the book. However, the box stressing the importance of lymphatic drainage (p.58) is displaced too far away from the anatomical description of the regional lymphatics (p.25). The information is up-to-date, and there is a useful section on the dental implications of prions.

The decision to divide the content into the traditional academic disciplines may be a convenient way of packaging the information. However, it does not help readers to integrate the interdisciplinary aspects of many topics. For example, the excellent account of regulation of tooth development (in Genomics) is separated from the equally good description of odontogenesis (in Anatomy & Development). These two topics were cross-referenced in the text but I feel these intimately related aspects should have been integrated. The format also creates some unnecessary duplication of material, especially between the Physiology and Biochemistry sections.

There are very few errors, but I did

notice that nerve axon diameters were (twice) given in millimetres rather than micrometres. The coverage is quite comprehensive but, inevitably, there are some omissions (e.g. pulse oximetry; junctional epithelium; effects of acid etching on enamel; positive and negative reinforcement).

Handbooks of Clinical Dentistry have proved very popular with students (and some staff). I am not sure if this Handbook of Applied Dental Sciences will prove as popular, but it does provide a portable information source and revision aid that is likely to appeal to many students.

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