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Foreword

Welcome to the latest edition of the International Journal of Clinical Skills (IJOCS), Volume 9, Issue 1, Jan 2015.

Evidence regarding blended learning is increasing, but more needs to be known about its use in clinical education for clinical skills and how students utilise and perceive e-learning as part of a blended approach. Researchers from The University of Sydney and King's College London present a study which explores first year nursing students' perceptions, patterns of use and the influence on skill development of an e-learning resource when used to supplement traditional teaching methods to teach the skill of aseptic technique.

Breakaway skills are defined as 'a combination of physical techniques and safety principles that are designed to allow an individual to protect (oneself) from physical injury and escape from a potentially aggressive situation'. Aggression in many health care settings is unfortunately all too common a feature. Researchers at London South Bank University consider occupational therapy and nursing students' impressions of structured and discovery based teaching approaches to delivering breakaway skills. The findings of this study are important as it is the first of its kind relating specifically to students' experiences of being taught personal safety skills in a clinical setting.

'Pass the PSA (Prescribing Safety Assessment)' and 'The Unofficial Guide to Prescribing' are two important books reviewed in this issue of the International Journal of Clinical Skills. In addition to both books being a valuable introduction to drug prescribing for medical students, they are very useful refreshers for established doctors and nurse prescribers.

As always, your feedback is invaluable for the continued development of the International Journal of Clinical Skills – the only peer reviewed international journal devoted to clinical skills. E-mail: feedback@ijocs.org

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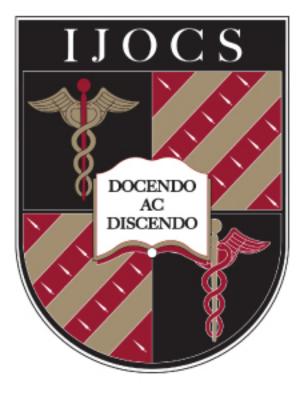
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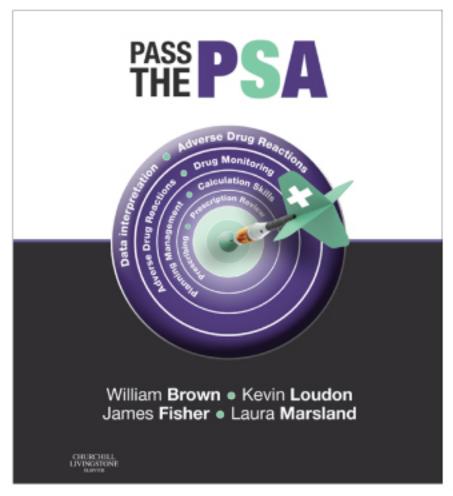
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IJOCS Book Review



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Book Review: Pass the PSA (Prescribing Safety Assessment)

This book aims to provide a practical and informative approach to safe prescribing for senior medical students and junior doctors, written specifically for the Prescribing Safety Assessment (PSA). Due to become compulsory for full GMC registration, this exam sets a minimum standard for prescribing and aims to reduce the high number of prescription errors associated with newly qualified doctors.

There is an increasing awareness that although the theory and science underlying the use of drugs is extensively covered in the undergraduate curriculum, the practicalities of safe prescribing are often limited. This book aims to bridge this gap by covering the major issues in practical prescribing thereby facilitating a smooth transition onto hospital ward prescribing.

The format of the book is simple and clear, making good use of diagrammatic and graphical representations where needed. The book is organised into ten chapters corresponding to each section of the exam; ranging from the basic principles of prescribing to calculating drug dosages and recognising adverse drug reactions. The chapters are structured around demonstration scenarios, theoretical discussion, useful mnemonics and practice questions with detailed feedback.

Common traps and useful hints are highlighted throughout the book increasing its readability. There is a useful chapter on data interpretation which describes the different biochemical and haematological derangements attributable to various drugs. It also offers advice on approaching ABGs, ECGs and chest x-rays. Another

welcomed section for junior doctors will be the acute drug management of common emergencies in a series of simple algorithms. It goes further by summarising the NICE guidance for the management of common chronic conditions including hypertension, angina and COPD.

The book concludes with two mock exams allowing ample practice of the principles outlined in the preceding chapters.

In conclusion this is a concise and relevant book that fulfils its purpose as a preparation tool for the core modules of the PSA. Due to the implementation of the PSA being at a very preliminary stage, improvements and further reflections on the success of this guide could only be suggested at a later date. However, by utilizing memorable and illustrative text in a simple layout with over 300 practice questions, it could prove to be an essential revision partner.

Passing the PSA is a valuable introduction to drug prescribing for medical students and a useful refresher course for established doctors and nurse prescribers.

Review by:

Dr Raina Nazar MB BS BSc DRCOG MRCGP

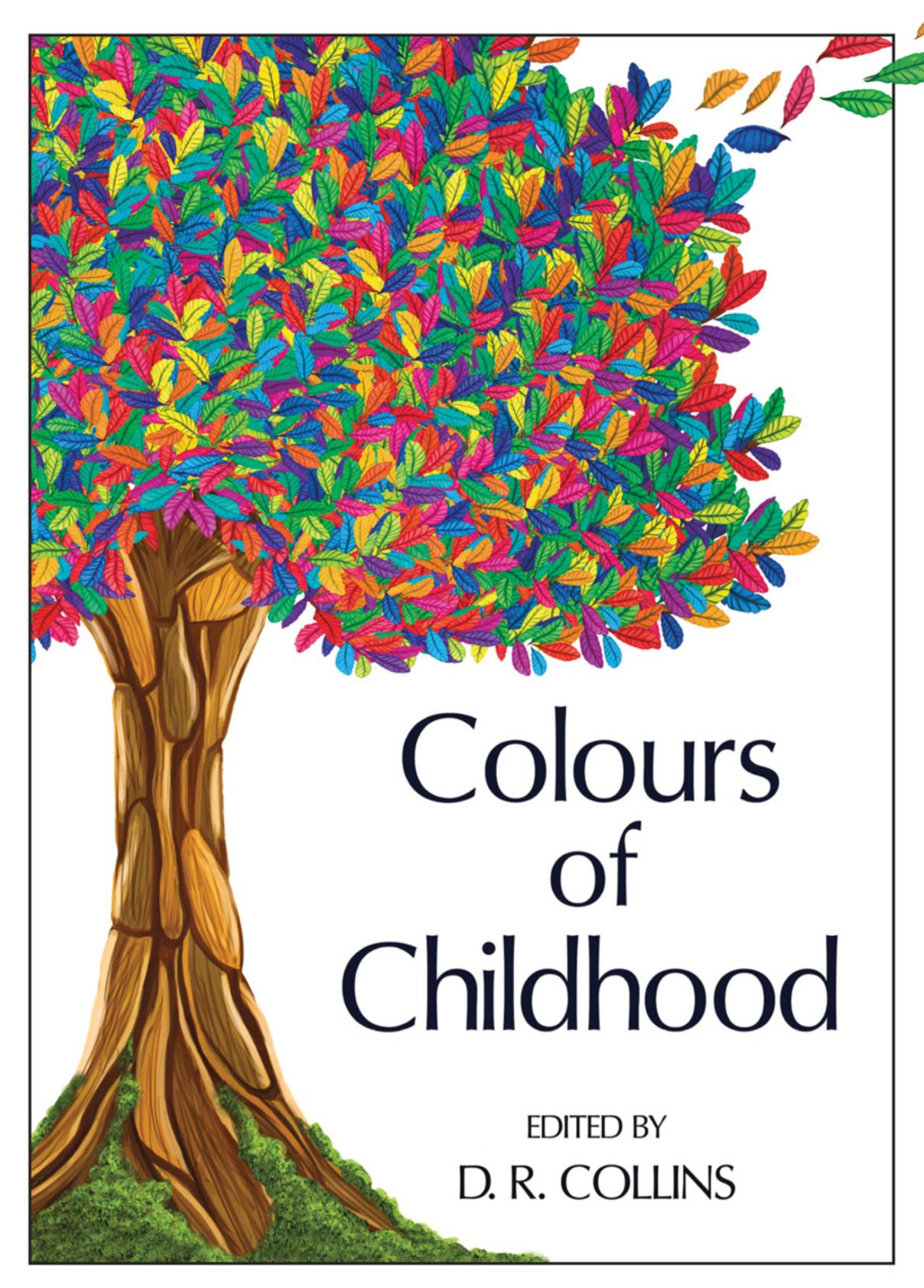
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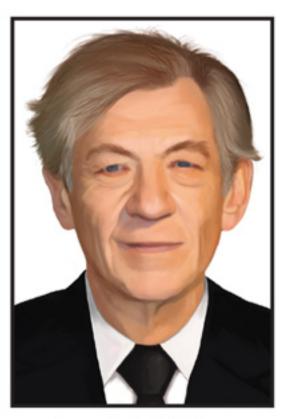


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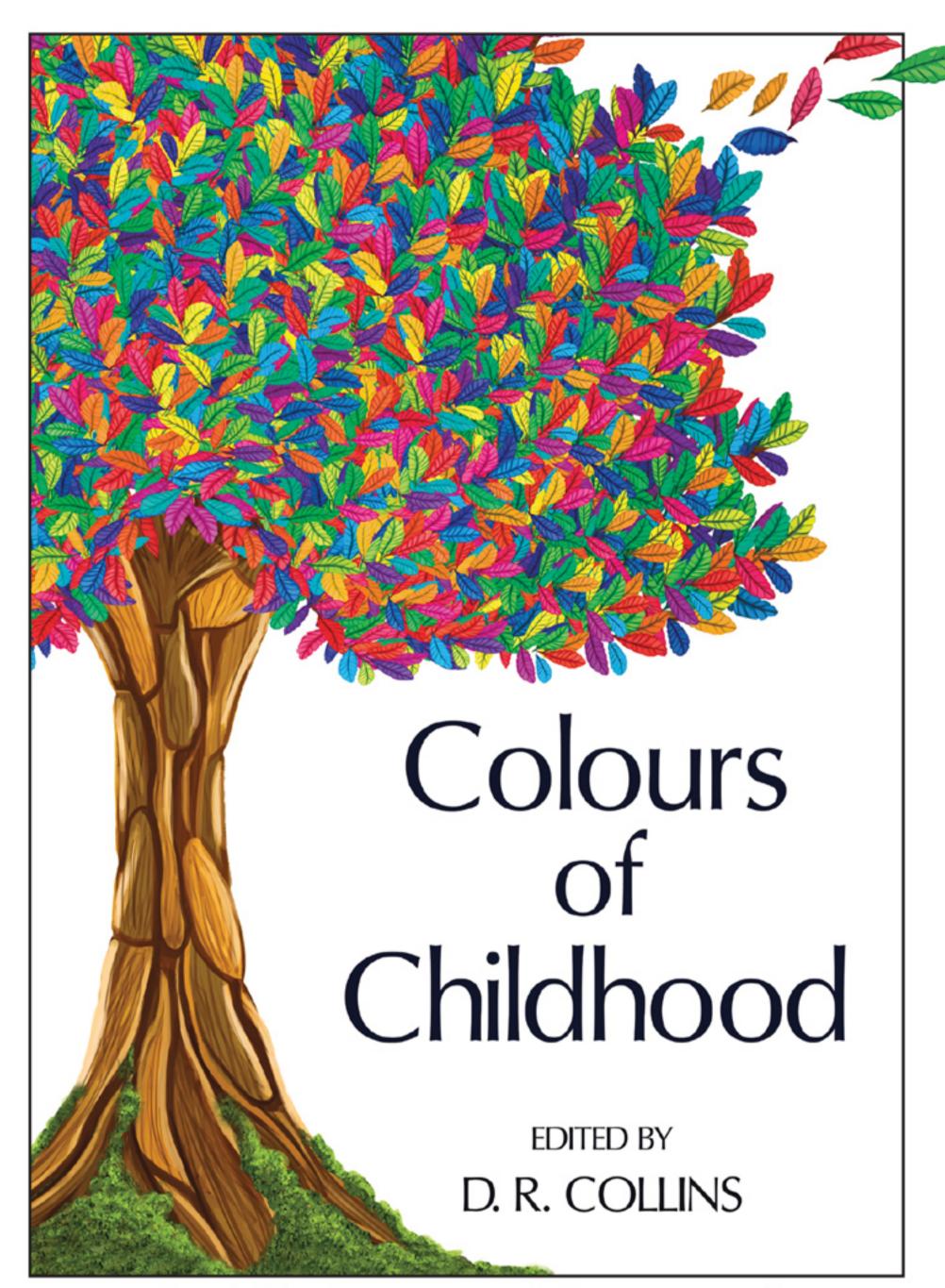
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astonishing advances in medicine that
it takes a case in the developing world
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Jill Dawson
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Joanna Trollope
'Unkind and unimaginative though it is,
this difficult world is easier to negotiate
if one is born looking at least
acceptable, to other people.'



David Dimbleby

'It is the individual stories that matter each child helped is a triumph in
a world beset by poverty
and illness for so many.'



Pope Benedict XVI



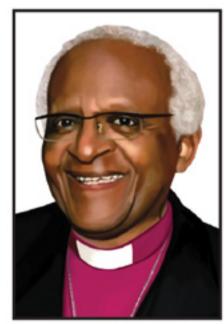
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We all have hopes and dreams, many of these in childhood. But life's twists and turns can make or break a future. Colours of Childhood is a tribute to childhood and its many colours. It includes contributions from over one hundred people from all walks of life; they include religious leaders, royalty, sporting personalities, actors, politicians and musicians, just to name a few. Over a hundred poems accompany the contributors' messages, with each poem giving a distinctive insight into childhood and much more. The full-page colour illustrations throughout the book provide a thought-provoking background to the poems. Childhood should be a time to be carefree and happy – but not all of us are so lucky. This unique anthology depicts also human determination and courage, as well as the urge to love and help others. It gives us hope for a better, more united world. What were your childhood hopes and dreams? Wherever life leads you, Colours of Childhood is sure to inspire you and brighten your way.

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