INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CLINICAL SKILLS

docendo ac discendo by teaching and by learning

JOCS VOLUME OS ISSUE

Contents

Foreword

Welcome to the latest edition of the International Journal of Clinical Skills (IJOCS), Volume 8, Issue 5, Sep 2014.

The arterial pulse is the most easily accessible and widely used marker of disease. Its importance cannot be overemphasised as it is often the first point of assessment of any mode of presentation and a reliable pointer to diagnosis. However, increasingly palpation is being replaced by automated machines providing a rate in beats per minute, which on its own is meaningless. Dr Anwar Chahal and colleagues present a paper which discusses the historical origins of the pulse, how to assess it and make a diagnosis.

In a very informative study, researchers at Plymouth University (UK) explore the impact of classroom based teaching and clinical skills rehearsal on student nurses' perception of confidence, knowledge and competence in measuring radial pulse. It is apparent that the delicate interplay between theory, simulation of clinical skills and practice placement has a crucial role to play in the development of knowledge, confidence and ultimately competence.

'The Unofficial Guide to Passing OSCEs' and 'The Unofficial Guide to Passing OSCEs (Candidate Briefings, Patient Briefings and Mark Schemes)' are two books which provide a wealth of information for students and teachers alike. Mr Waseem Ahmed and Dr Saleem Jeewa present their respective reviews of these two valuable resources. There is no doubt that the Chief Editor of these books, Dr Zeshan Qureshi, has clearly embarked on bringing together crucial knowledge, thereby allowing students to concentrate on the 'learning' rather than the 'finding' of information.

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

Contents

The pulse – more than just a number	87
- Anwar Chahal, Khalid Mujahid, Shilpa Kanzaria, Amar Bhavsar, Anil Raj, Sandeep Gupta	
Nursing students' knowledge, self-efficacy and skill in measuring radial pulse in the clinical skills	
simulation environment: a pilot study	93
- Kevin Hambridge, Martyn Bradbury, Catherine Hughes, Karen Jeffery, Anita O'Connor, Ruth Endacott	
IJOCS Book Review: The Unofficial Guide to Passing OSCEs	103
- Waseem Ahmed	
IJOCS Book Review: The Unofficial Guide to Passing OSCEs	
(Candiate Briefings, Patient Briefings and Mark Schemes)	104
- Saleem Jeewa	

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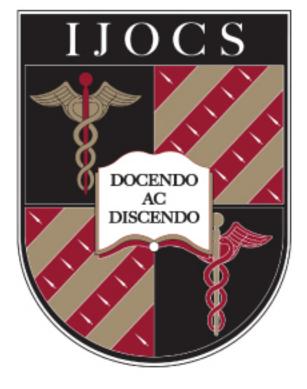
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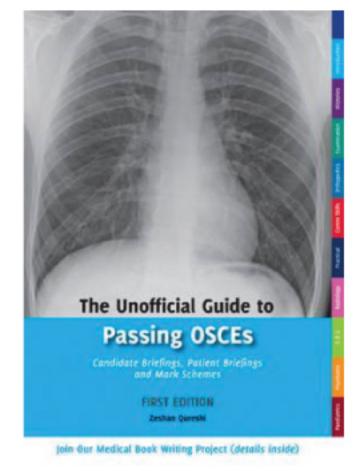
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IJOCS Book Review



Author: Zeshan Qureshi (Editor)

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Book Review: The Unofficial Guide to Passing OSCEs (Candiate Briefings, Patient Briefings and Mark Schemes)

This book aims to structure revision for the objective structure clinical examinations (OSCEs) with a catalogue of example stations to enable medical students to perform mock OSCEs. Therefore it is suitable for both medical students in their early clinical years and those approaching their final year OSCEs.

The cornerstone of the book is that the authors are medical students and junior doctors who have recently completed the OSCEs successfully. The authors therefore, are thought to be in the best position to understand the requirements of a revision guide that addresses the challenges of OSCE preparation. The editor also makes a bold attempt to interact with the target audience, through inviting readers to contribute to future editions with their advice and experiences of OSCEs. Therefore the editors hope to keep the book relevant to future students. Having been reviewed by senior clinicians, readers are reassured of the book's clinical accuracy.

As is the case in the OSCE, the book divides each station into a vignette for candidates, instructions or history for the simulated patient and a mark scheme for the assessor followed by questions with answers. All are typical of what candidates can expect to face in an OSCE; therefore students can practice mock OSCEs using this book. In this way the book holds true to the principle of 'acquiring medical knowledge in a fun and memorable way'. The editors have taken care in presenting large amounts of information on each page in an organised manner. The book is especially suited to those students

who find plenty of colour and images help reinforce their knowledge rather than being a source of distraction.

Whilst the clinical scenarios are detailed and good to learn from, only one clinical scenario is provided for each speciality; for instance the only cardiology history is for just one of the many differential diagnoses of chest pain. This is the limitation of a single revision guide encompassing almost every common type of station for each speciality that is of a manageable size. The book also expects its readers have previously practiced clinical and communication skills as it does not teach readers how to perform these, nor does it give examples of possible phrases to use in communication skills stations. However, such limitation is overcome when this guide is used in conjuction with the highly successful Third Edition of 'The Unofficial Guide to Passing OSCEs' (ISBN 9780957149908).

This book can be used early in the revision process to identify key areas one needs to focus revision on and periodically to check progress through regular mock OSCEs. It provides candidates with practical tips which other books may overlook, for both revision and the exam itself thus confirming the writers' proficiency as authors of an OSCE revision guide. It is reassuring to the reader and congruent with the aim of making students confident candidates to pass OSCEs.

Review by:

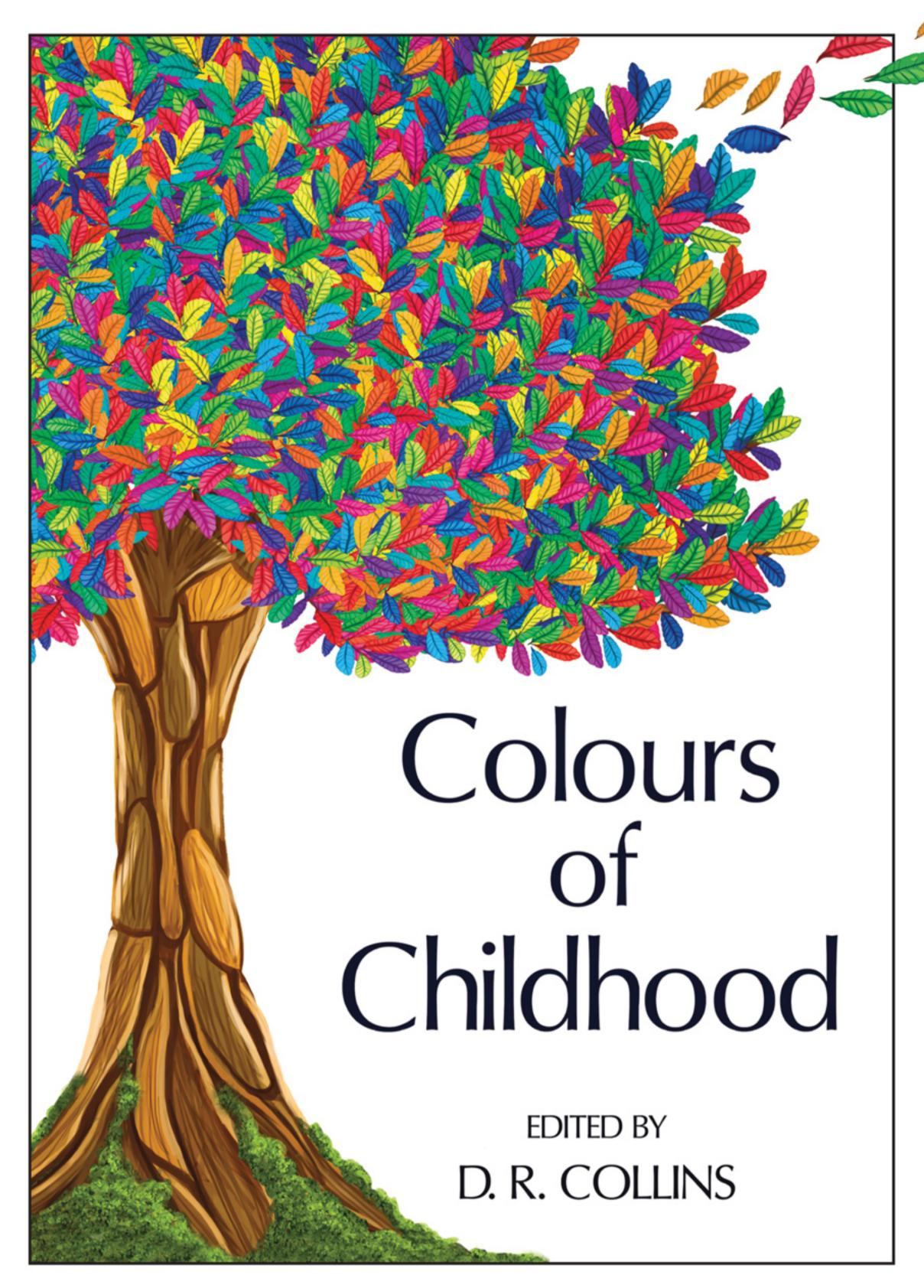
Dr Saleem Jeewa BSc MBBS
IJOCS Book Reviewer

IJOCS · VOLUME 8 · ISSUE 5 SEPTEMBER

104

CELEBRATING THE UNIQUE VALUE OF EVERY CHILD

Our collective attitudes and actions can change the life of a child forever

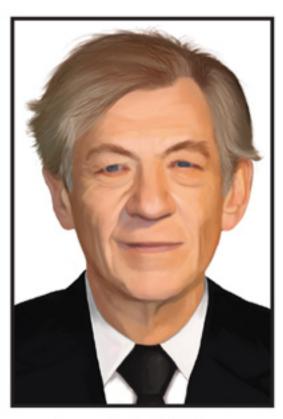


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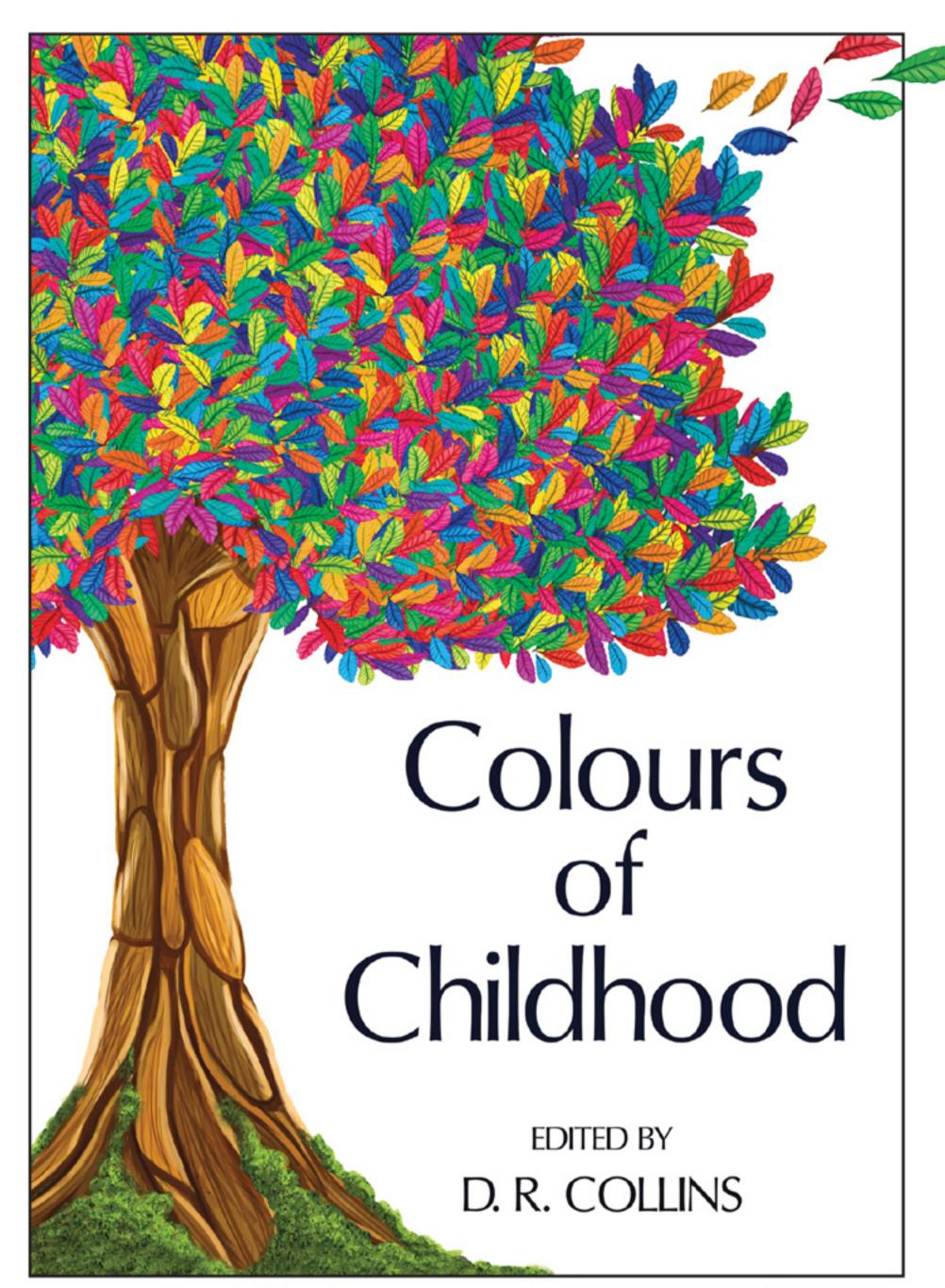
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Gary Lineker
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which made a lasting impression on me "We make a living by what we get, but
we make a life by what we give."



Jeremy Paxman

'We have become so accustomed to
astonishing advances in medicine that
it takes a case in the developing world
to make us realise how lucky we are.'



Glenn Hoddle

To help yourself is one thing, to help someone else is the greatest thing we can achieve.'



Jill Dawson
'What comes from the heart reaches the heart.'

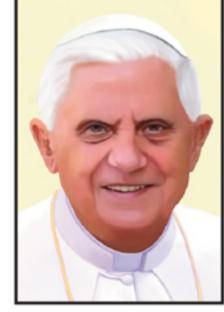


Joanna Trollope
'Unkind and unimaginative though it is,
this difficult world is easier to negotiate
if one is born looking at least
acceptable, to other people.'



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



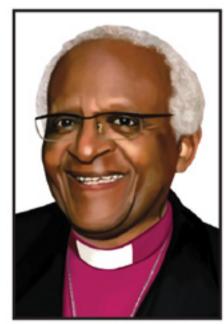
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Frederick Forsyth



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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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