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

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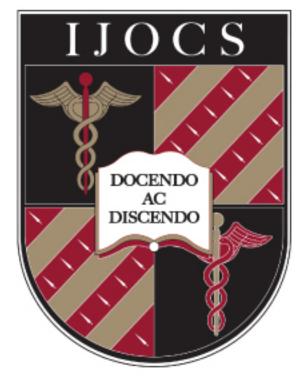
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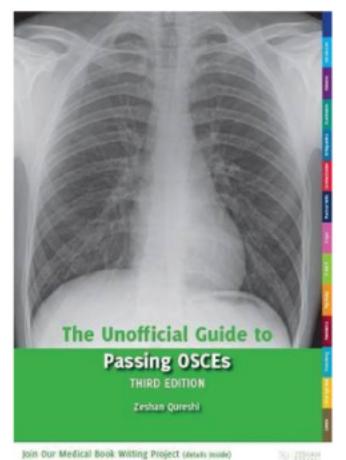
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IJOCS Book Review



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Book Review: The Unofficial Guide to Passing OSCEs

As suggested by its name, 'The Unofficial Guide to Passing OSCEs' is a well presented learning and revision guide for medical students. Well over 70 people have been involved in the creation of this informative guide which is now in its Third Edition. It is essentially a concise collection of informative guides covering core and popular OSCE stations.

The guide's method of creation allows it to be used in multiple ways by readers – there is wealth of knowledge covering each OSCE station. The important and basic features of each skill are clearly highlighted via concise lists, tables and much more. The book quite rightly contains all the essentials that you would typically expect of a book in this format – including but not limited to illustrations, photographs, radiology images and graphs.

The manner in which 'The Unofficial Guide to Passing OSCEs' is written provides great appeal; the majority of information is written succinctly, allowing easy digestion and learning by the reader. Where necessary, the authors expand on information and provide links to the relevant resources. The numerous colour images describe the associated text very well. Overall, this provides a good overview of each skill without over-reliance on descriptive text and a revision tool that medical students should find easy to work with.

'Present Your Findings' sections are especially beneficial in this guide – it is hard enough for a student to perform a skill thoroughly, let alone having to present the findings of the skill in a logical orderly manner. Such sections provide a summary format from which the reader can learn how to

communicate findings (an important aspect of OSCEs) – a skill that often helps examiners differentiate between competent and failing candidates. In addition, helpful quotes are included throughout the book in highlighted boxes – the name, job and place of work of each quote's author provides assurance with regards to the basis of such knowledge.

Future editions of this book might look to include links to online video resources that demonstrate some of the OSCE stations; nevertheless, this does not stop current readers from utilising this book to its maximum potential and then reinforcing this knowledge by viewing existing online material. Consolidating knowledge is very important in ensuring high quality performance in OSCEs, and in real life clinical scenarios – this book certainly provides the platform for this to occur.

The Chief Editor of this book has clearly embarked on bringing together the best of knowledge into one resource, thereby allowing students to concentrate on the 'learning', rather than 'finding' of information. The authors clearly acknowledge that this highly successful book is just one component of the numerous resources that should be utilised by students to ensure appropriate learning for examinations.

Review by:

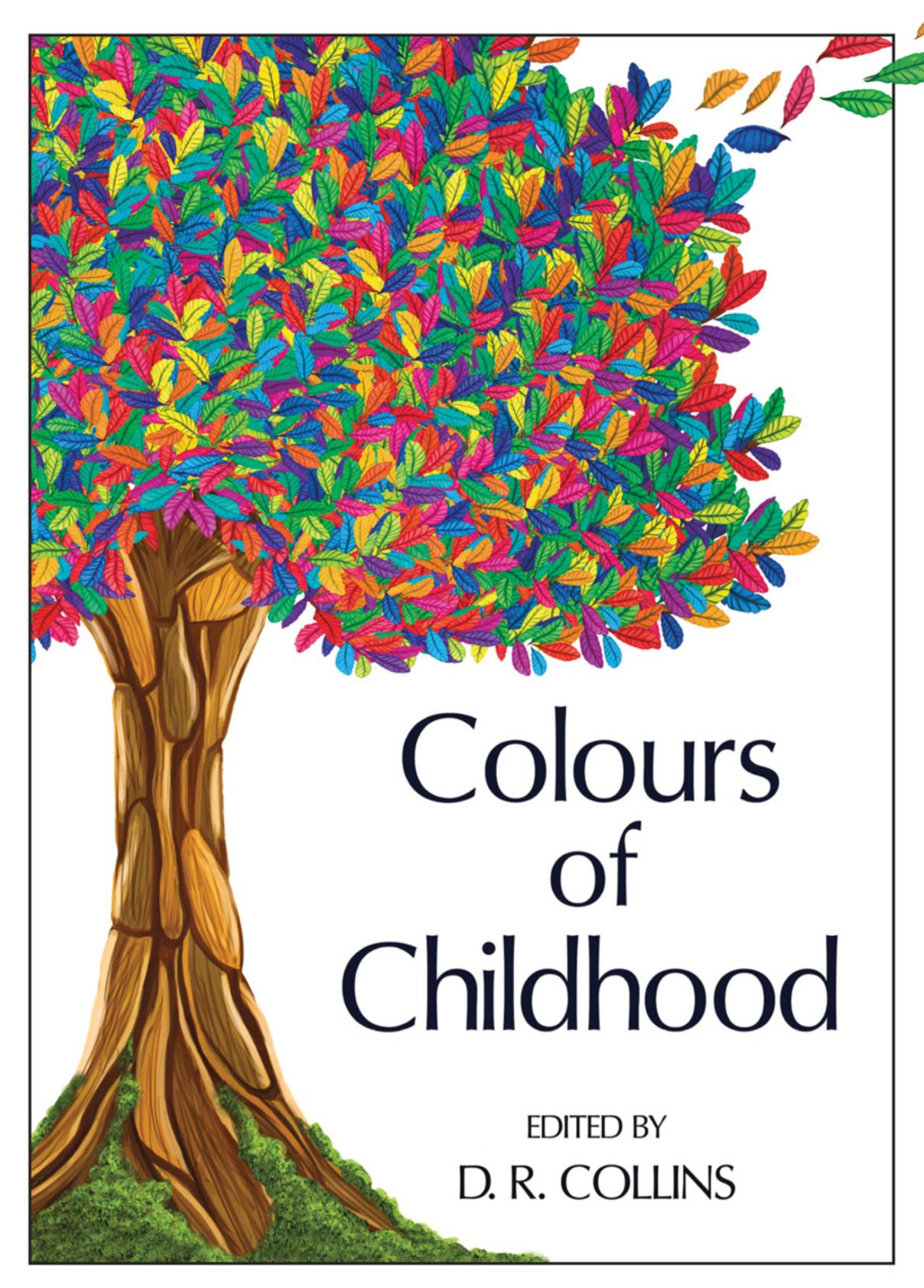
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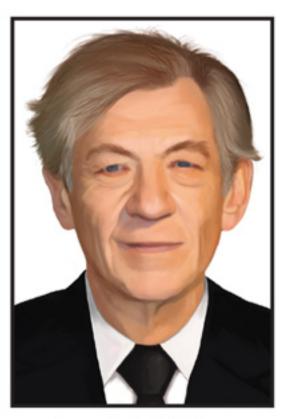


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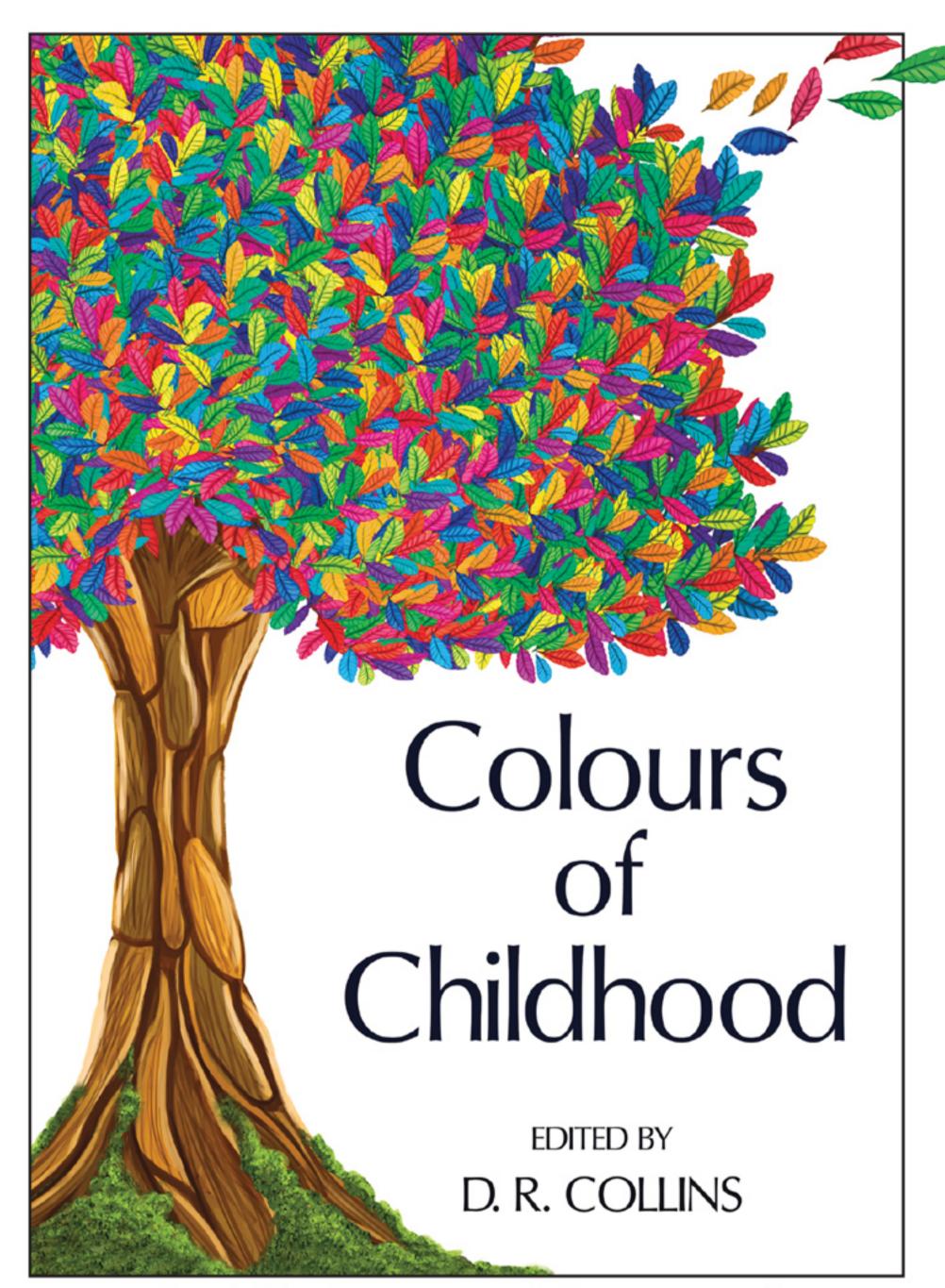
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Gary Lineker
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which made a lasting impression on me "We make a living by what we get, but
we make a life by what we give."



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



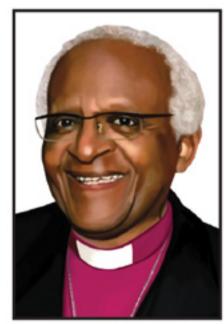
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We all have hopes and dreams, many of these in childhood. But life's twists and turns can make or break a future. Colours of Childhood is a tribute to childhood and its many colours. It includes contributions from over one hundred people from all walks 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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