



Genetics for the Health Sciences: A Handbook for Clinical Healthcare (Scion Handbooks)

Heather Skirton, Christine Patch

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Genetics is vitally important in the health sciences, but its relevance on a day-to-day basis is often poorly understood. *Genetics for the Health Sciences* introduces the general principles of genetics and links these to real world examples, to allow nurses, midwives, genetic counselors and doctors to apply this knowledge in their routine clinical practice.

Based on their extensive experience of clinical work, the authors emphasize the practical issues related to the healthcare of individuals and families. The book takes an holistic approach, from preconception to adulthood, and addresses the false notion that clinical genetics is of relevance to those who are planning a family.

As well as discussing the basic principles, *Genetics for the Health Sciences* also describes the latest technologies and shows how these can be applied to clinical practice.

This is an essential text which helps all those in clinical healthcare understand the genetics they need in their professional roles. It is also an ideal coursebook for students in the healthcare professions seeking an understanding of core genetic principles and how these are applied in practice.

Reviews:

"The text is a compact, concise presentation of the basic concepts in genetics science and the impact of genetics across the lifespan. The organization of the text increases its usefulness to clinicians as each specialty area could easily locate the information most pertinent to their work...The text is well illustrated throughout, again providing summarized information that is easily accessed. An especially helpful feature of this text is the presence of multiple case studies in each chapter, making this text particularly useful for teaching. I think faculty teaching students in advanced practice nursing programs and allied health courses would find this text a succinct addition to their course. However, I could also see this text being useful in RN preparation curriculum. It could easily be a text that would carry over for several specialty areas and provide additional material specific to genetics in each area.

Genetics for Health Sciences: A Handbook for Clinical Healthcare is a welcome addition to the rather sparse choices available for presenting genetics content in clinical practice curriculum."

Rebekah Hamilton, ISONG, June 2010

"Tremendous progress in recent years has shaped the field of medical genetics, which continues to expand to involve almost every aspect of human health. Hence, it is necessary for every healthcare professional to acquire a basic understanding of this science. This is clearly the objective of this well-edited and structured book by Skirton and Patch in its second updated edition. The authors' considerable experience in genetics, through direct clinical practice in addition to organisational and academic roles, can be appreciated in the practical aspect of their writing.

The book starts with useful definitions and alerts the reader to the wide applicability of genetics through clinical cases, raising questions that are answered and discussed when relevant in later chapters. Important aspects of genetic counselling, from basic skills such as risk estimation using family trees to more complex ones related to effective ethical communication with the clients in the light of their needs and the different models of counselling, are then discussed in two chapters. However, given their intrinsic function in medical genetics, these issues are also efficiently tackled in the clinical cases outlined in each chapter.

The authors then describe important scientific concepts and techniques that are necessary for a good clinical understanding of genetics. Although this section may seem short, the additional resources provided at the end are very useful. Likewise, for all topics covered in the book, the updated links provided serve as a handy catalogue for the heal

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David Rutherford:

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Doris Whobrey:

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