

This book deals with health care models that influence the provision of primary care. My first impression of this book was one of intimidation at the unfamiliar language and concepts used to describe these models. The author, however, reviews each model then adds clinical commentary to enhance the understanding of the concepts discussed. He also reaffirms the features of each model during the discussions to facilitate understanding.

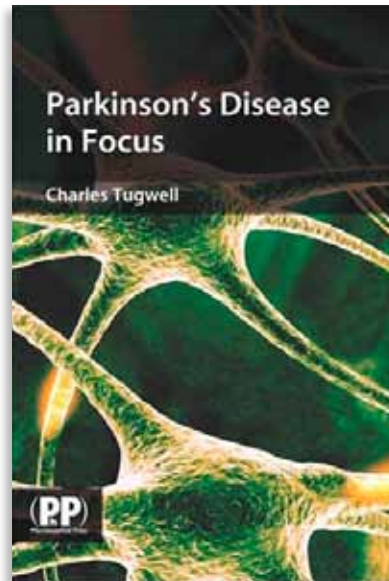
This book is divided into chapters, each reviewing the different models that have contributed to the evolution of the current understanding of the practice of medicine. The first chapter questions why it is important to understand how physicians think in order to make decisions in clinical practice. In the subsequent 3 chapters, the author outlines the historical development of the scientific models that determine our current decision-making processes in medicine. Once the foundations of the current models have been discussed, the author uses the next 2 chapters to discuss an enhanced model in health care—that of complexity. He reviews the mathematical theories involved in the understanding of complex systems and differentiates complexity from chaos. Throughout the presentation of the facets of the model, there are clinical examples to illustrate the components of the theory. In the final chapter the author reviews the principles of complexity in relation to 4 of his published articles. I found this section of the text difficult to relate to the previously described principles in the book. However, there is an extensive reference and reading list included in the book and an index to access text easily.

Overall, I thought the author put forth an intriguing, thought-provoking account of the different models of care that underlie current medical practice. His illustration of the model

of complexity in medicine further advances understanding of the doctor-patient relationship and ultimately the principles that guide health care policy.

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Parkinson's disease in focus

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OVERALL RATING Excellent
STRENGTHS Easy to read,
 useful figures and illustrations,
 well organized
WEAKNESSES None
AUDIENCE Physicians and
 pharmacists

Our understanding of Parkinson disease changes periodically. New discoveries are constantly being published in the medical

literature, not only on clinical aspects of the disease but also regarding treatments. These treatments include pharmacotherapy and nondrug therapies, such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, surgery, and complementary and alternative practices. For clinicians, up-to-date information is often required; this book is timely and offers all that is required to catch up on these aspects of Parkinson disease. The disease is covered from basic science to clinical concepts (ie, identification, evaluation, and treatment).

The author is a highly qualified pharmacist in neurology in London, England. His book begins with descriptions of clinical aspects of Parkinson disease (ie, signs and symptoms, pathophysiology, etiology, diagnosis, and investigations) and is followed by chapters on known therapeutic approaches. The chapters are short and readable. The book is enriched by pictures and figures that very elegantly illustrate an already very well-written text. Clinical guidelines are nicely presented at the end of the book. Useful appendices that summarize drug side effects and interactions can be found at the end.

Parkinson's Disease in Focus is easy to read and its content is readily accessible. The information is straightforward—after reading this book, health professionals will have the impression they are well informed about Parkinson disease. They will certainly be more equipped to encounter patients with the disease. As future literature on the subject is published and new notions acquired, it will become easier for any reader to build upon the information provided by this work. It is a book of value for both medical doctors and pharmacists, and it is certainly one of the best overviews available at this time.

—Pierre Arsenault MD PhD

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