

BOOK REVIEW:

Zhang, Shu-Xin: An atlas of Histology.

Springer, New York, Berlin, 1999, 0-387-94954-2, 49,95 US\$

This book is an excellent teaching book for students and beginners who have to or want to inform themselves about the concept and light microscopic appearance of human tissues. It contains over 300 hand-drawn illustrations of human organs representing their light microscopic images at a magnification between x 50 – x 350. The textbook starts with an explanation of cells and cellular structures to be found in various organs such as epithelium, connective tissue or cartilage. It then enters the different organs and their morphological characteristics. Each illustration is accompanied by a short text which explains the details and significant findings. Why to print a histology atlas based upon drawings and not on real HE-stained histological images? The computer-assisted illustrations focus on the important features and are not disturbed by – even if only marginal – nevertheless unavoidable disturbances such as irregularities of staining or variations in the thickness of the cuts or scrambling artifacts. The knowledge of these artifacts is an important feature in the daily practice of a pathologist; however, it can easily parry from significant parameters. The atlas is a nearly complete collection of histological morphology of human tissues and organs, and can be recommended without hesitations, especially as it is still available at a moderate price

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