

## Book review

### *Surgical anatomy of the hand and upper extremity*

James Doyle and Michael Botte, 783 pages, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia 2003  
ISBN 0-397-51725-4

Everyone knows that a comprehensive knowledge of anatomy is a prerequisite for safe and effective surgery. These authors have assembled a wealth of anatomical material designed to aid the surgeon in the evaluation and treatment of patients with hand and upper extremity disorders. A wider audience—i.e., hand therapists, neurologists, neurosurgeons, surgeons in sports medicine and basic science researchers—will also benefit from this refreshing compendium of anatomic knowledge. It should be borne in mind that even the “old” field of anatomy is continuously evolving thanks to new and refined techniques developed to study the structural properties of the human body. In addition, anatomy of the extremity is the basis for recent advances in the increased knowledge about muscle-tendon-joint interactions. All of these aspects have been included and interpreted in a straightforward, scientific way here. The book is extremely well illustrated with excellent drawings together with clear photographs of dissection material. It is obvious that the authors are true scientists, as shown by numerous classic references and recent articles. Information is easy to find thanks to a very good

index system. The content is comprehensive and although the personal opinions of the authors are evident, it is on the whole an unbiased and intellectually stimulating text appropriate for an international readership.

In comparison with other books in the same field, this compendium is more comprehensive, much better illustrated and it has several appendices listing in an elegant and distinctive way the necessary “dry” type of information. My overall impression is that it will set a new and higher standard in surgical anatomy for many years to come for hand and orthopaedic surgeons. It is a definite “must read” and will be highly referenced for decades due to its comprehensive nature. This book is truly enjoyable and reflects a milestone in the never-ending development of the integrative efforts to combine anatomy, surgery, biomechanics and physiology.

**Jan Fridén**

*Department of Hand Surgery, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, SE-413 45 Göteborg, Sweden*