

Research Methodology in Orthopaedics and Reconstructive Surgery

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published by World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd, Singapore

ISBN 981-02-4775-3, 828 pages, US\$78.00



A lot of young orthopaedic surgeons embark on research projects with little guidance. This book is especially directed towards young investigators in the Southeast Asian region. It is a great effort as it encompasses a wide spectrum of orthopaedic research, both experimented and clinical.

The book, at the start, goes down to the very basics of how to plan a research project and gives valuable guidance as to how to write up an application for a research project grant. It ends with chapters on how to write a finished product both as an article or a thesis. The chapters on “Editing an Article” and “Examining a Thesis or Dissertation” are valuable guides for those who do peer review.

Professor Aziz Nather has channeled his own experience of experimental research and his M.D. thesis writing into the editorship of this book, contributing several chapters. It is commendable that majority of the contributors have been from South and Far East Asia. The section dealing with choice, care, handling and anaesthesia for the animals, although may sound basic, is of fundamental importance to avoid unnecessary wastage of both animals and available funds. The book provides meticulous details of histological, electron microscopic and microangiographic studies for easy reference for a fresh investigator.

The various sections on healing of musculo-skeletal tissues, biomechanics, microvascular surgery, tissue engineering and cell culture and cadaveric research stimulate the reader to look for new venues of research. Additionally, the chapter on “Statistical Evaluation” is very well written, in an easy to understand manner for those not familiar with statistics.

However, the chapter on “Cadaveric Dissection in the Upper Limb” is straight out of an anatomy dissection manual and does not add much to the theme of the book. Similarly, the titles under the Section IX “Opportunities in Clinical Research” are like review articles and only add to the volume of the book. Apart from this and some typographical errors, the book is very well written and edited. Any young investigator starting off on the path of orthopaedic research will value this very useful book. Looking back on my own adventure into animal experimental work thirty-five years ago, without any guidance to the methodology, a book like this would have been invaluable.

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