

Preface

The ultimate firm guide for medical students preparing them for the clinical experience. This book is written by newly qualified doctors who are familiar with the pitfalls of clinical attachments and who understand the fears and apprehensions when students are thrown into the hospital setting. This pocket-size handbook specifically outlines what medical students are to expect, and what is expected of them when sitting in clinics and theatres. It addresses how not to look like a fool in front of senior doctors and provides hints and tips on how to answer questions on ward rounds. It is not designed to replace medical textbooks but is a down-to-earth relay of experience from a student perspective, bridging the gap between textbook knowledge and clinical practice.

This guidebook has been written in collaboration with top teaching consultants who are familiar with the gaps of knowledge of the average medical student. It does not aim to cover the minutia of cardiovascular medicine, rather it aims to deal with subjects students struggle to understand, subjects that are ill-defined in mainstream textbooks. It is written in an informal, story-telling style, avoiding unnecessary jargon.

This is the hands-on tool providing up-to-date information in one of the most rapidly evolving fields in medicine. Coronary heart disease is the number one killer in the western world. Therefore, a comprehensive knowledge in this field is essential for the student and applicable regardless of whichever speciality they later embark on. This instrument is specifically designed to fit into your handbag thereby making it the ideal companion on long journeys to and from attachments. By the end of it, students should be

confident, competent in their skills, with better insight into evidence-based practice. We hope to stimulate an interest in cardiology and that its launch will be a debut to a potential series of guide-books for medical students in other clinical specialities.

Kathie and Edith