
BOOK REVIEWS

The Clinical Anatomy of the Coronary Arteries: An Anatomical Study on 100 Human Heart Specimens

Horia Muresian, MD, PhD. 192 pages. Bucharest: Editura Enciclopedica; 2009. US \$225.00. ISBN: 978-973-45-0581-4. Available from: cvsurg@hotmail.com; more information can be found at: www.books.horiamuresian.com

Fields of Medicine: Cardiology and cardiovascular surgery.

Format: Hardcover book. Trim size: 8.5 x 11 inches.

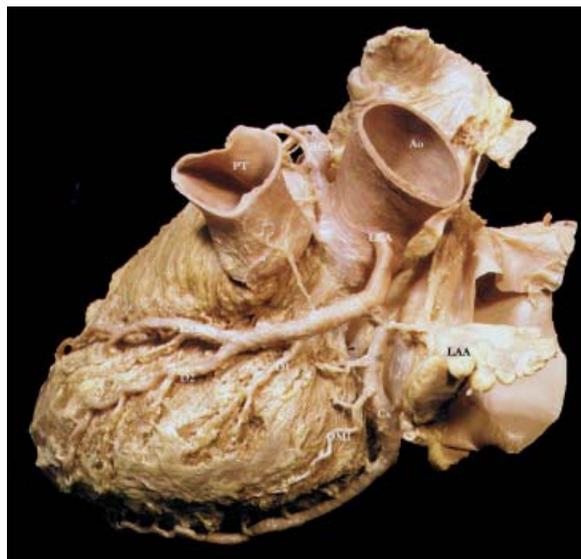
Recommended Readership: Anatomists and clinicians who have an interest in the less-familiar details of cardiac structure.

Purpose: The intent of the book, in the words of the author, is as follows: “it occurred to me to build up a collection of specimens, images and data depicting the hidden or the less-known details of cardiac structure—that had and have to be shared with as many colleagues as possible, in a most comprehensive manner.”

Content: Although the major focus of the work is the demonstration of coronary artery anatomy, the book presents a comprehensive text with descriptive and conceptual material accompanied by a number of tables and drawings. The book is divided into 11 chapters, comprising *Introduction, Embryological Highlights, The Main Coronary Trunks, Collateral Circulation, Connections in the Coronary System, Coronary Anomalies and Variations, Myocardial Bridging, The Vascularization of the Interventricular Septum and the Main Septal Branch, The Vascularization of Particular Cardiac Areas, Coronary Preferential Pathways, and Coronary Typology*. Historical perspective is provided by quotations from William Harvey at the beginning of each chapter.

Strengths: Dr. Horia Muresian, the author and creator of the work, is a senior cardiovascular surgeon with broad training and experience in surgery, as well as a keen interest in cardiac anatomy. He has a number of relevant publications in the area, including clinical anatomy of the mitral valve (*Clin Anat* 2009;22:85-98) and surgical anatomy of the Ross Procedure (*Ann Thorac Surg* 2006;81:495-501).

This treatise elegantly presents detailed demonstrations of coronary artery anatomy. The work illustrates meticulous dissections of the coronary arteries conduct-



From *The Clinical Anatomy of the Coronary Arteries*: Long common trunk (length, 24 mm) with normal bifurcation. Left lateral view of a heart specimen in which the roof of the atrium was cut and the pulmonary trunk was retracted. The circumflex gives off 2 small lateral branches to the left ventricle and ends as a conspicuous retroventricular branch. The left anterior descending gives off a small first diagonal and ends by bifurcating, the second diagonal branch having the same caliber as the remaining distal left anterior descending.

ed by the author on 100 human heart specimens over a decade of study. Although details of the methodology are not presented, the dissections appear to have been conducted on formalin-fixed specimens. The photographs of the dissected hearts are frequently accompanied by coronary arteriograms. An important feature of the work is the presentation of unusual views and considerable details of the anatomy and distribution of the coronary arteries. The quality of the photographs and illustrations is excellent. The text is clearly written and presents accurate information. Each chapter is accompanied by references that cite relevant supporting publications.

In summary, I give a strongly positive recommendation for this elegant and insightful presentation of coronary artery anatomy by an experienced cardiovascular surgeon who has a special enthusiasm for and understanding of cardiac anatomy. The monograph should prove a valuable contribution to the personal collections of physicians and scientists who are students of the cardiovascular system.

Weaknesses: Optimal use of the book requires familiarity with the level of anatomic detail, terminology,

and abbreviations used in the text. For example, Appendix 1, The International Anatomic Terminology, includes an 8-page table comparing Latin and English terms for multiple structures of the human heart, together with critical comments. However, the reader will gain new insights into coronary anatomy by taking the time to assimilate the text in relationship to the photographs and illustrations.

Overall Grade: ★★★★★

*L. Maximilian Buja, MD,
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs,
Professor and Distinguished Chair
in Pathology & Laboratory Medicine,
The University of Texas Health Science
Center at Houston*

Time to Care: Personal Medicine in the Age of Technology

*Norman Makous, MD, with Bruce Makous. 464 pages.
Philadelphia: TowPath Publications; 2009. US \$14.95.
ISBN: 978-0-9776686-1-8. Available from Publisher,
P.O. Box 43522, Philadelphia, PA 19106.*

Field of Medicine: Primary care.

Format: Softcover book. Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5 inches.

Recommended Readership: Anyone interested in knowing how much and why delivery of healthcare in America has changed over the past 60 years. Readers benefitting the most will be the young physicians and young patients who have no real experience with personal medicine—medicine characterized by a strong patient–doctor relationship.

Purpose: To show why a strong patient–doctor relationship must return to the center of our healthcare system in order to humanize treatment, help reduce unnecessary spending, and lead to a healthier, happier society.

Content: 366 pages of text divided into 6 parts, containing a total of 71 chapters.

- **Part I** looks at medical education and medical care before technology took center stage.
- **Part II** shows how solo general practitioners or small groups of physicians in the same specialty were at one time the primary providers of medical care—an arrangement that solidified the relationship between doctor and patient.
- **Part III** directs attention to the dramatic shifts in medicine brought about by technological advances.

- **Part IV** reviews the impact of modern technology on medical practice, using the field of cardiology as an example.
- **Part V** examines the role that government, hospitals, healthcare organizations, and insurers play in today's medical care; the efforts being made to manage the costs of such care; and current and future practices in the rationing of medical care.
- **Part VI** offers insights into the future of healthcare delivery.

The book also contains a 3-page table of contents, a 3-page preface, a 5-page introduction, a comprehensive 14-page index, a 35-page glossary for the lay reader, the author's 13-page curriculum vitae, a full-page diagram of the human heart, a list of 28 additional readings, an acknowledgment page, and a bit about the author and his son Bruce.

Strengths: The author's commitment to and compassion for his patients reverberates throughout this book. By using dozens of case anecdotes from his 60-year career as a personal-care cardiologist, he effectively illustrates how a strong patient–doctor relationship—the essence of personal medicine—brings joy and satisfaction to everyone involved. Relatively few physicians ever have such a long professional career, and even fewer ever document their experiences in a manner so clear and so detailed as Dr. Makous has.

Physical properties of the book also deserve credit. On the front cover are pictures of medical practice ranging from the horse-and-buggy days to the current world of body scanners; included is a snapshot of the author as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, using his stethoscope to examine a patient. The pages of the book are of good stock with easy-to-read print, and selected cartoons and photographs provide spice and a touch of nostalgia.

Weaknesses: Everywhere in the text, certain words appear in bold when first mentioned—a signal that they are included in the glossary. This innovation creates distractions, because the boldfaced words always pop up suddenly, and often in the middle of a sentence. One could also question the need to include the author's extensive curriculum vitae. The book stands tall without it.

Overall Grade: ★★★★★½

*Herbert L. Fred, MD, MACP,
The University of Texas Health
Science Center at Houston*

Grading Key

★★★★★ = outstanding; ★★★★★ = excellent;
★★★★ = good; ★★★ = fair; ★ = poor