To review a book it is best to start with its preface. It provides information on the scope and purpose of the book. The stated purpose is to provide updated information and contribute to the existing literature.

The book is A to Z of spondyloarthritis (SpA). There are 28 chapters and 52 authors. Importantly, except for one, all other contributors are from India. There is a judicious selection of senior, not so senior, and young rheumatologists (a rapidly growing pool). All the articles are written well and provide recent information with references. Most chapters include basic information and the necessary background.

The opening chapter on ‘Evolution of the Concepts of SpA’ is remarkable for lucidity and fluidity of language. Review of Indian studies is quite comprehensive. The chapter on classification criteria brings out evolution, justification and philosophy of developing the criteria, and explains the difference between classification and diagnostic criteria with their application.

The radiology chapter provides a good overview of the role of x-rays in SpA. I wish the chapter had included areas like anatomy and structure of SI joints, specific findings at various sites, such as enthesis, and complications like Anderson’s fracture, atlantoaxial dislocation.

It is not possible to discuss the remaining chapter individually. Suffice it to state that all are more or less complete. More specifically the chapter on MRI is well illustrated. The chapter on assessment is remarkable in the details described. Therapeutics is described in 8 chapters. Biologics have been described in individual chapters. The place of NSAIDS and the controversy surrounding their use has been discussed in a separate chapter. Treat to forget is well covered. There are two futuristic chapters- one on emerging therapies and the other on halting radiologic progression. The latter is an expression of our hope.

The chapters on inflammatory bowel disease and eye in spondyloarthritis, provide useful information and perspective of the respective specialists. The chapter on pediatric perspective is good. Chapters on surgery, and physiotherapy, inclusive of yoga, wind up the book.

What is missing? A chapter on effects of disease and treatment on sexual health, pregnancy, and breast feeding with guidelines on continuation or otherwise of DMARDs and NSAIDs during pregnancy, breast feeding and during surgery could have been included. There are a few printing slips e.g. on pg. 161, in paragraph 1, first two sentences are contradictory. In chapter 22, the legends of Fig 2 and 3 have been exchanged.

Has the book served its purpose? Yes, it has. Full of information, there is something for all.

The editors are to be congratulated.

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