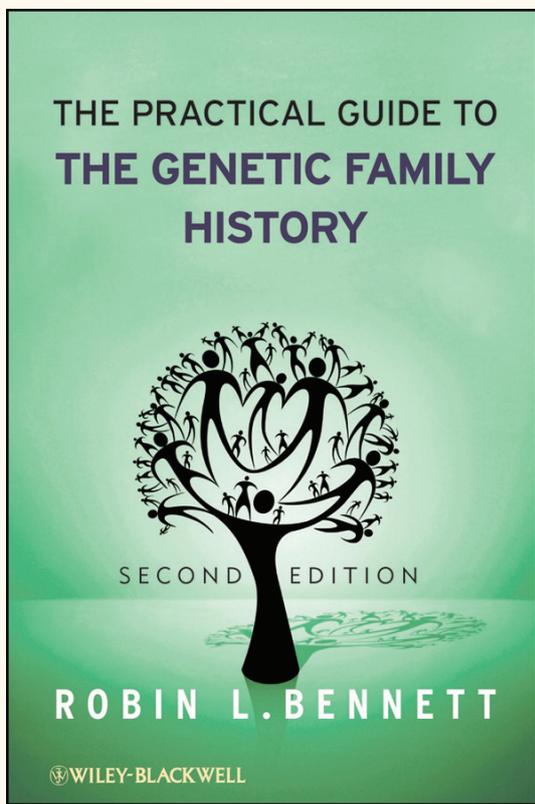


A Practical Guide to the Genetic Family History

Author: Robin L Bennett
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الدليل العملي للتاريخ العائلي الوراثي

المؤلف: روبن بينيت



DR. ROBIN L. BENNETT HAS EXTENSIVE experience in the field of medical genetics and is certified as a genetic counsellor by the American Board of Medical Genetics and the American Board of Genetic Counseling. She currently serves as the Senior Genetic Counsellor

and Co-Director of the Genetic Medicine Clinic in the Division of Medical Genetics, Department of Medicine, at the University of Washington.

Such extensive expertise has allowed Dr. Bennett to provide the scientific and clinical communities with two editions of the volume entitled: "The Practical Guide to the Genetic Family History". In comparison to the first edition, the second one provides an updated version compiling the most recent tools and strategies to assess family pedigrees in order ultimately to provide diagnoses, evaluate risk, and counsel patients. The innovative aspect of this second edition lies not only in guiding health care professionals on how to record a medical family history and establish the family pedigree, but also provides clear explanations of why each piece of information collected is invaluable.

This book is a valuable resource which outlines the appropriate methods for taking and recording a patient's family medical history, allowing the primary care physician to be more accurate in diagnosing conditions with potential genetic origin. Dr. Bennett presents genetic screening forms outlining directed questions, pedigree nomenclature, and common strategies, thus providing readers with the basic knowledge in human genetics needed to diagnose inherited disorders and further identify patients with familial disease susceptibility.

In addition to providing essential tools that will aid the primary care physician in diagnosing

conditions with inherited genetic components, the book outlines the various criteria that will help in determining patterns of inheritance; calculating risk of disease; referring the patients for genetic counseling; informing and educating patients about the disease; managing the disease, and recommending the patients for genetic laboratory testing.

As an expert in genetic counselling, Dr. Bennett also provides specific clues in her book that will help the wide range of readers to deal with the psychological, cultural, and ethical issues that arise when taking family history and breaking news to patients. This is an essential aspect of the book because genetic counselling relies strongly on the environment of the patient, and the health practitioner needs to be familiarised with the patient's cultural and social environment. In fact, genetic counselling in the Arab world requires specific knowledge about the community and its culture.

In summary, using clinical examples based on hypothetical families, this second edition presents the most up to date methods and strategies for establishing a family pedigree, including: 1) questionnaires to use when preparing a detailed

medical family history for a specific disease; 2) sharing information and education of patients and families during genetic counselling; 3) identification of individuals with increased risk based on analysis of family pedigrees and 4) ethical issues and special considerations related to adoptions or gamete donors..., etc.

In conclusion, this book is an invaluable resource which will enable clinical geneticists, counsellors, primary care and specialist physicians, as well as nurses, medical social workers, and physician assistants to take full advantage of the information and strategies provided. This will enable them to prepare and establish a family pedigree as a primary tool for making a genetic risk assessment and providing counselling for patients and their families.

REVIEWER

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