

with various word processing programs, WordPerfect 5.1 (or later) is especially compatible as special features have been created for the spellchecker in this instance (checking for capitalized drug generic name and any lower case trade name, for example). The "chaining dictionary" also activated with WordPerfect 5.1 (or later) enables several dictionaries to be linked and provides for a more customized spellchecker. Finally, irregular terms or phrases, such as those that may include single letters, words with numbers or irregular case, or hyphenated or required capitalization, may be ignored by setting the preference features accordingly.

Mosby's Medical Encyclopedia for Health Professionals

Credits: Darlene Como, executive editor; Rakha Anad-Singh, project manager; Laurie Sparks, senior developmental editor; Barbara Carroll, assistant editor. System requirements: (For Windows 3.1 or later): 386/25 MHz processor or higher, CD-ROM drive, 256 color monitor, SVGA sound card, 4 MB RAM, 4 MB hard disk space. Mosby Yearbook, Inc, 11830 Westline Industrial Dr, Attn: Order Services, St Louis, MO 63146; (800) 633-6699; \$59.95.

In the current breakneck pace of computer software development, many production companies seem complacent with developing reputations of quantity over quality. This trend has become especially apparent in the arena of educational titles, where often the user gains far more from learning how to get a program up and running properly than from the content of the software itself. Not so with the new *Mosby's Medical Encyclopedia for Health Professionals*.

The ability to move with ease throughout the various areas of the program is central to its effectiveness as a reference and learning tool. The program includes both alphabetical tabs and a comprehensive search function, which allows for easy access to any of the topics. Cut and paste tools, electronic book marks for insertion, and print information are available with a click of the mouse. This accessibility

makes gathering information easy and fun.

Mosby's Medical Encyclopedia for Health Professionals is specifically formulated for use by persons in various healthcare fields. Yet it has the benefit of defining medical terms in plain English, as well as including correct audio pronunciations of the medical terms. The straightforward design entails detailed illustrations, which also serve as a useful reference resource. The extensive appendices feature laboratory values, drug interactions, diagnosis-related groups, and assessment guides.

However, a few aspects of the program—such as the inclusion of more audio pronunciations—could be improved. All things considered, however, this program (particularly the anatomy atlas) serves as an excellent reference resource for the healthcare student and the seasoned professional, while also stimulating those young minds of persons who may be interested in a career in the healthcare field.

Microscopic Anatomy

Programmers: Thomas Hollinger, PhD, content author; Richard Rathe, MD, and Tim Garren, BS, software design; Office of Medical Information, University of Florida, image production; Charles Poulton and Gene Cornwall, technical assistants; Tim Garren, Patrick Joiner, and Walt Szalva, CD-ROM development; Victor Pesqueria and Jonathan Seymour, MD, production management; Bill Bradley, editorial assistance; Diana Pray, copy editing; Jill Dygert, CD packaging and design. System requirements: (For Windows 3.1 or later): 386 processor or higher, 16-bit color, 8 MB RAM, 9 MB hard disk space. (For Macintosh 7.1 or later): 68030 processor or higher, 16-bit color, 8 MB RAM, no hard disk space necessary. Gold Standard Multimedia, Inc, 235 S Main St, Suite 206, Gainesville, FL 32601-6585; (800) 375-0943; \$99.

The latest in the educational multimedia series from Gold Standard Multimedia takes the study of anatomy literally under the microscope. Patterned after the histology curriculum of the University of Florida School of Medicine, *Microscopic Anatomy* is much more than a mere collection of photomicrographs. Rather, it combines the many facets of the study of microscopic anat-

omy into a single, more digestible study aid.

For many students and medical professionals alike, the study of micropathology is a difficult one. Perhaps even more daunting than the study of micropathology is the tedious nature of histologic examination of the slides with long hours spent confined to the microscopy laboratory. Although it seems doubtful that any tool could make mastering the subject easy, *Microscopic Anatomy* does take strides in that direction. For example, it begins with an in-depth tutorial covering the use of the common light microscope. This tutorial includes a 5-minute movie (which can be viewed in whole or part) that describes in an elementary fashion everything from light physics to the care and use of the microscope. This information serves as a sound fundamental basis on which to build knowledge gained from the tissue samples contained within the program.

Most of the elements are categorized by different tissue types, with 20 different categories from which to choose. More than 1200 digitized images of fixed and stained tissue preparations are available. For example, by selecting from the "Bone and Connective Tissue" or "Urinary System" menu, users can select from various slides. From this menu users can select cell type, species, or method of preparation. A hematoxylin and eosin preparation of human cardiac muscle, for example, is easily contrasted with a toluidine blue preparation of the muscularis layer of a small intestine section from a rat. The slides themselves may then be viewed at two different zoom levels or may be expanded to full screen. When viewed at a reduced size, the slide is accompanied by an outline-type descriptor, as well as a more detailed text box describing what can—and should—be seen in the particular image. An occasional electron photomicrograph is provided, albeit in only a few of the available categories, and then only as a single image.

True to its education orientation, *Microscopic Anatomy* includes exten-

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