expect most of the authors to use this in their own independent work.

The inclusion of stories from persons with PD and their family members interspersed between chapters certainly keeps one grounded. Their narratives were honest, at times uplifting, and poignant; one could feel the frustration of the daughter not allowed to stay after hours to attend to her mother following back surgery and the patient herself who commented that while her pupils are tested, no one really “sees” her.

While Parkinson Disease: A Health Policy Perspective is a good reference book for health professionals with an interest in health policy and advocacy, overall there is not enough to recommend this book to most practicing neurologists, residents or movement disorders experts.

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

Alex Rajput


Rated ★★★★

I know how to do my job, but don’t know how my job works. This remains the anesthetist’s dilemma.

Suppressing the Mind is a small text summarizing how anesthetics (perhaps) work. Originating as a workshop on brain research in 2007, it is 252 pages, and current to 2010. It bridges multiple fields in an attempt to explain how memory and consciousness are affected by general anesthetic drugs. The chapter of greatest relevance to me as a practising neuro-anesthesiologist was on anesthetic awareness. This was readable, complete and enjoyable. It contrasts with the chapter on neurochemistry of arousal state control: I might understand the transmitters in the rat brain if sentences of only 12 words did not have 30 references. This is my chief complaint: the decision to provide references within the text (written as ‘Authors, year’ instead of just end note numbers) makes the whole book less readable. This book will appeal to the graduate student in both neuroscience and neural monitoring, and to anesthesiologists seeking advanced knowledge of how our field actually works.

I remain confused by the parts of the hippocampus and the math of mean-field models. I now appreciate that it is ‘not just gaba’, and the great separation of consciousness and recall that it is expressed so clearly in my patients who receive midazolam.

How do anesthetics work? I know a little more about this complex answer, and so will those who read Suppressing the Mind.

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