BOOKS, ETC.


The Knowledgeable Patient, by Sophie Hill, is a timely book that offers communication techniques for healthcare providers and medical information resources for patients with the goal of improving the provider-client relationship.

Dr Hill defines the audience of her book to be students, educators, and practitioners training to work in clinical medicine; health management, information, administration, or policy; or public health. Practitioners or educators obtaining further education, particularly those who are interested in the consumer perspective of health issues, will find valuable information in this book.

Dr Hill effectively recognizes and defines the changing role of the patient in the 21st century, that is, the transcendence from passivity to participation. She identifies the changes healthcare providers need to make to facilitate patient-centered care. Patient-centered management ideology led to the formulation of new medical litigation and laws, which in turn generated new venues of medical research. The book cites examples of investigations on effective communication, knowledge acquiescence, and education.

The author proposes a conceptual framework that incorporates World Health Organization guidelines that encourage patient-centered care and health management. Through this framework, she ties the importance of the scientific approach and democratic participation to overall improvement in health management. She conveys the importance of scientific research and the employment of evidenced-based studies to aid in provider-patient teaching and healthcare management. A further explanation of resources of scientific reviews, such as the Cochrane Collaboration, follows. The conceptual framework of scientific approach and democratic participation are the foundation of this book.

This book was well written and appropriate for its intended reader. Dr Hill effectively uses qualitative research techniques such as individual interviews and reports from scientific reviews to substantiate theories and methods of patient participation healthcare management. The inclusion of personal situations, individual stories, and interviews added justification to content information. Related reports and citations of systematic reviews from the Cochrane Collaboration provide substantiation for content discussions.

In my opinion, Dr Hill’s association with the Cochrane Collaboration as coordinator/editor may be a conflict and should be considered when critically assessing content of this book. Nevertheless, the author balances citation content well. I valued the global perspectives available through the Cochrane Collaboration used as comparison information.

The content within this book is important, timely, and highly relevant for today’s healthcare challenges. I would recommend this book to colleagues, students, and anyone entering the healthcare field intending to care for patients.

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Author’s Corrections
In the October 2011 issue, the author of the AANA Journal Course corrects the Greek symbol for sigma (Σ) to epsilon (ε) in the following locations: page 434, paragraph 4, line 5; page 435, paragraph 2, line 4; page 435, paragraph 3, line 10; and page 436, Table 1, first line under column heading “Non–α subunits.” The online version of the course has corrected. See Rossman AC. The Physiology of the Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptor and its Importance in the Administration of Anesthesia. AANA J. 2011;79(5):433-440.