

Example Review #1

Integrating a Social Determinants of Health Framework into Nursing Education (Springer, 2023)

Reviewer: Christine Lee, PhD, RN, MPH (Kaiser Permanente)

Description

This book provides an intimate perspective of the authors' journey in transforming their teaching pedagogy in a nursing school to fully integrate social determinants of health (SDOH). The book not only covers the philosophical framework and the "why" of integrating SDOH, but also offers insight into committee approaches, snapshots of the online curriculum, and extensive applications across a multitude of nursing courses.

Purpose

The purpose of the book is to provide a pathway to integrate social determinants of health (SDOH) into nursing education. Embedding nursing education with SDOH is critical to alleviate health disparities and ultimately improve health outcomes. These objectives are worthy, as education leads to practice which leads to research, policy, and practice initiatives which influence the impact of SDOH on health and illness in human populations. The book outlines how nurse educators can play a role in influencing future nurses within the SDOH framework.

Audience

The book is primarily written for nurse educators and nursing program administrators, as well as for curriculum development. It outlines the step-by-step process necessary for sustained systematic change, describing evaluation and development, while providing detailed examples for readers to apply to their own classroom and curriculum. The authors are academics involved with the integration of SDOH in their nursing program.

Features

The book describes the rationale and evidence to support the framework developed within the school of nursing and is transparent about its intent and outcome. It also details the development of the Canvas faculty development site and provides reflections and considerations to build/integrate a learning system. The studies and research come from the perspective of the African American/Black experience. It is critical that SDOH include all populations (e.g., immigrants, gender divergent groups).

Assessment

No other books in the field comprehensively provide a step-by-step outline to integrate social determinants of health (SDOH), not only into one's own curriculum, but also into a school of nursing, from committees to Canvas sites. The book provides a guide to fully embracing SDOH as a unified profession, understanding that nursing care does not simply stop at the patient's bedside, but extends to the patient's family, community, environment, and policies.

Example Review #2

Leading with Your Upper Brain: How to Create Behaviors That Unlock Performance Excellence (Health Administration Press, 2022)

Reviewer: Gwendolyn Oglesby-Odom, EdD, MSN, BSN, RN-BC, NEA-BC (Advocate Aurora Health)

Description

This book provides readers with a scientific-based, three-pronged approach that has the potential to unlock a leader's ability to enhance the performance excellence of their team. Each chapter begins with a notable quote and ends with a review of the key concepts and references that can be used to ascertain additional information.

Purpose

The purpose of this book is to provide leaders with scientific-based tools that cultivate high-performing teams, utilizing their upper brains to be purposeful and intentional about their behaviors and those of their team members. The goal is to foster behaviors indicative of a high-performing team -- starting with self-governance. Given that high levels of engagement are needed for customer and employee satisfaction and productivity, leaders must be armed with tools to promote an environment that produces highly engaged and productive teams. In addition, high levels of employee engagement lead to retention, loyalty, and well-being.

Audience

This book is written for those in a position of influence and those who aspire to hold such a position in the future. The book meets the needs of its intended audience. The distinguished authors have written numerous articles and papers on leadership, the effectiveness of organizations, and the development of high-performing organizations.

Features

The authors take current and future leaders on a journey back to the basics of leadership. Leadership starts with governing one's behaviors. Using the upper brain, which manages cognitive behaviors, helps leaders focus on the technical and human aspects of leadership. The human side of leadership promotes purpose and intentionality, which ultimately drives engagement and outcomes. Centering on the why instead of the how and using compassion, hope, humility, trust, selflessness, and vulnerability are just a few essential tools identified by the authors. These essential tools will aid leaders in cultivating great working environments and high-performing teams. The authors begin each chapter with a quote for readers to ponder. The chapters end with key takeaways from the chapter and references that can be used to gather additional information about the context covered in that chapter.

Assessment

As leaders search for tools to retain, engage, and upskill employees to produce high-performing teams, this book can serve as a great resource. In addition to the use of a scientific approach, the authors take leaders back to the basics of self-governance and the simple acts of human kindness. This book is a great read and a friendly reminder that leaders can balance technical and people skillsets to create the perfect place for employees to work and thrive, and for customers to receive the best outcomes possible.

Example Review #3

Cohen's Comprehensive Thoracic Anesthesia (Elsevier, 2022)

Reviewer: Robert Gaiser, MD (Yale School of Medicine)

Description

As the title states, this book presents a comprehensive review of the practice of thoracic anesthesia. The book clearly complements thoracic chapters in other books by providing the needed physiology and pharmacology necessary to understand the concepts. The book begins with a review of the anatomy and physiology of the respiratory system. Its figures and tables ensure readers are able to understand and remember the information that is needed when concepts of thoracic anesthesia are presented.

Purpose

The goal of the book is to present a comprehensive review of thoracic anesthesia. Through the clear explanation of anatomy and physiology to the perioperative management of the patient requiring thoracic surgery, the book has more than exceeded expectations. Once this information is explained, the book discusses specific anesthetic and surgical considerations. An amazing feat is that this information is presented in a fashion that allows the incorporation of the previously learned information and no repeating of the material. This accomplishment is a testament to the superb editing. The online book is just that - an online book - and does not avail itself to other advantages of the internet by linking to original articles. It just allows users to make notes.

Audience

This book has a wide-ranging audience from learners in anesthesiology to practicing anesthesiologists. The introductory material describes the basic physiology the new trainee requires for safe anesthetic practice. As expertise develops, the learner will appreciate the comprehensive approach to the perioperative management of the patient. For those who already practice thoracic anesthesia, the specific anesthetic considerations will be of interest as the chapters allow readers to practice an evidence-based approach due to the use of recent references and scholarly activity. The book is an outstanding read from beginning to end as well as an extremely useful reference for when confronted with an unfamiliar situation in thoracic anesthesiology.

Book Content/Features

The book is a complete review of thoracic anesthesiology. The organization is superb starting from the basics to focusing on perioperative management. While many thoracic chapters in major textbooks focus on intraoperative management, this textbook also includes the preoperative preparation and postoperative rehabilitation of the patient. The information is evidence based and represents the current state of knowledge. The specific thoracic diseases and surgeries make a superb reference textbook, allowing the readers to focus on specific areas of deficiency. This textbook is easily read and informative. The index is complete with all techniques in thoracic anesthesiology as well as complications included.

Website Content/Features

The online book enables readers to use the computer to read the textbook and make notes. It does not have hyperlinks to other chapters or to original articles. The figures are superb, clear, and easy to understand. An individual will find the ability to copy figures for presentations useful. The ability to zoom in on images and bookmark is present.



Assessment

This book gets exceptionally high marks due to its outstanding writing style by true experts in the field, its superb editing that avoids overlap, and comprehensive and clear figures and tables. It is a book that will be used by trainees as well as by those experienced in the field. The book is an interesting read to supplement an individual's knowledge as well as a strong reference book for investigating new concepts. The book clearly exceeds expectations.