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Book review

**Cornea – Surgery of the Cornea and Conjunctiva**

Volumes 1 & 2, Fourth edition

Mark J Mannis, Edward J Holland

Elsevier 2016, 1952 pages, RRP \$613

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Since its first edition was published in 1997, the textbook *Cornea*, by Doctors Mannis and Holland, has been widely applauded as one of the definitive texts in the sub-specialty area of corneal disease. As a researcher, educator and practising optometrist in the field, I have found that the revised fourth edition of this text, published in 2016, to be a timely update on previous editions, with the inclusion of a number of contemporary topics.

*Cornea* (fourth edition) seeks to provide a comprehensive clinical and surgical reference in the field of the cornea and anterior eye. Contributions to this reference text involve more than 200 authors, including many highly regarded and distinguished academics and clinicians. Over two volumes, this title covers the fundamentals, diagnosis and management of corneal conditions, as well as their medical and surgical management. The content also encompasses a range of ocular anterior segment diseases, including disorders of the sclera and conjunctiva, anterior uveitis, lacrimal disorders and conditions of the ocular adnexa. These topics are elaborated in over 170 chapters and almost 2,000 pages, including a number of new chapters compared with the previous edition.

The major topic additions in this edition, compared with early iterations of the textbook, include coverage of the expanding range of contemporary corneal surgical procedures, such as Descemet membrane endothelial keratoplasty (DMEK), ultra-thin Descemet's stripping endothelial keratoplasty (DESK), Descemet's stripping automated endothelial keratoplasty (DSAEK), prosthokeratoplasty, endothelial cell transplantation and new refractive surgical techniques (for example presbyopic implants and small incision lenticule extraction).

The textbook is structured to be user-friendly and concise, but covers the topic areas with a suitable level of depth and sophistication. Each chapter begins with a 'Key Concepts' section outlining the main points and clinical pearls to derive from the chapter. The illustrations and photographs are generally clear and of high quality. A section on imaging techniques includes high-resolution images of corneal confocal

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microscopy, specular microscopy and anterior-segment optical coherence tomography (OCT). Particular emphasis is placed on the use of these technologies for diagnosing anterior segment disease and applying surgical interventions.

The potential application of anterior segment OCT for informing contact lens fitting, in particular mini-scleral lenses, is not featured within the book, but would be a valuable addition. Another useful feature is the associated eBook, as well as online access to the full reference text and additional content, including narrated surgical DVDs with a total running time of almost three hours.

As the field of corneal research and the management of anterior segment disease continue to evolve at a rapid pace, particularly with respect to therapeutic and surgical interventions, this latest edition of the textbook *Cornea* provides eye care clinicians with a resource that I expect would be a useful addition to their professional library.