

Bed 12

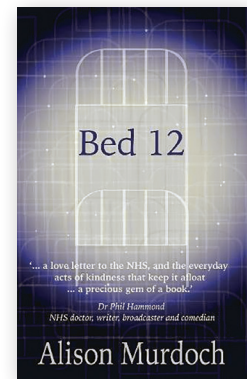
From the unassuming title describing the intensive care unit (ICU) location of the author's husband over one entire summer, to the religious references, I found *Bed 12* to be an informative yet rewarding and heart-warming read. *Bed 12* is not a neurological textbook but a first-hand poignant experience of dealing with a loved one with life threatening suspected viral encephalitis. This enriches the book greatly and I would recommend it to all, since it offers an additional perspective to medical students and others learning about neurology. The book is an affirmation to all the busy hospital staff that relatives and patients are deeply thankful and grateful to for the unrelenting intensive care and attention given in our wonderful NHS hospitals. The book is well written, humorous at times, and accessible, even to those not medically trained.

Simon had firstly become unwell with a headache. He subsequently arrived home from work unsteady on his feet, eyes half closed and very quickly deteriorated, unable to speak, agitated and almost unconscious. The strength and calmness of the author Alison Murdoch during the acute illness leading to her husband's coma and long stay in ICU is uplifting and reassuring and should I find myself in the same boat I will be re-reading this book. Further chapters detail the

gravity and realities of over a month's stay in ICU when the outcome was less than certain and the impact this had on the author who maintained an almost constant vigil. The uncertainty that surrounds the outcome shows there is still much to be learnt about this devastating illness.

The breakthrough chapter documents the awakening from the coma, the fast exit from ICU and the differences in intensity of hospital care. Aftermath details the move home, the continuing impact of the illness on the wider network and the long recovery. The Epilogue is written from the patient's (Simon's) perspective of his illness. He has no recollection of his time in ICU, a reminder that it is loved ones that bear the deepest memories of this time. It is notable that it took over a year for him to recover some functions despite a 'miraculous recovery' from encephalitis.

As a scientist directing a laboratory helping to diagnose autoimmune encephalitis, the grittier detail of this illness is not spared in this book and this is a welcome reminder. The mark of encephalitis is deep and longstanding, affecting a much wider group of people than just the patient and for a much longer time period than the hospital stay.



Author: Alison Murdoch
Publisher: Hikari Press; New edition (25 May 2017)
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Reviewed by: Melanie Hart, Principal Clinical Scientist and Laboratory Director, Neuroimmunology and CSF Laboratory, Institute of Neurology, University College Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK. I can confirm I have no conflicts of interest.

Alison Murdoch has had a varied career as a writer, contributor to BBC Radio and also works for a charity based in a London Tibetan Centre.

The Oxford Textbook of Neurocritical Care

"The Oxford Textbook of Neurocritical Care" is edited by Martin Smith, Giuseppe Citerio and W. Andrew Kofke with contributions by several international authorities from the disciplines of general and neuro critical care. Indeed, most chapters benefit from more than one author.

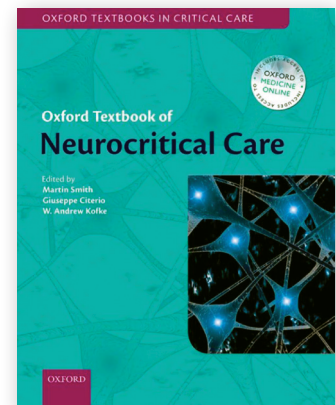
This volume will be most appreciated by physicians with neurocritical duties and neurologists or neurosurgeons who subspecialise in traumatic and vascular brain diseases.

The book is laid down in three parts. The first part provides a thorough description of essential neurophysiology, neuropathology, and neuropharmacology. The in-depth details in

this section cater especially to critical care physicians. Likewise, the second part which details different monitoring techniques and neuroimaging.

For me, the third part of the textbook was most useful. This section includes chapters devoted to specific brain conditions – different forms of stroke, traumatic brain injury, status epilepticus and several others. The schematic illustrations which complement the expansive text on each topic are especially good.

I would recommend this book to anyone involved in caring for patients with acute neurological disease.



Edited by: Martin Smith, Giuseppe Citerio and W. Andrew Kofke. **Published by:** Oxford University Press. **Price:** £116.69. **Pages:** 438
ISBN: 978-0-19-873955-5. **Reviewed by:** Dr Ranjith K Menon, MD, FRCP(Edin), MD(Res), MRCP(Neuro), Fellowship Stroke Neurology (Univ Toronto).

Chris Bryant MP to speak at Acquired Brain Injury conference in March

Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), Chris Bryant MP, will formally open the Acquired Brain Injury conference, hosted by Chroma, the UK's only national provider of arts therapies services.

The conference takes place on 15 March 2018 at BMA House in London. 'Arts Therapies and Brain Injury: Optimising Outcomes Across Assessment, Treatment and Care' is set to host seminars and workshops based on Arts Therapies and its use within brain injury rehab.

The Conference brings together some of the leading authorities and influencers in this field, to deliver the latest research and scientific evidence on how arts therapies are improving outcomes for patients recovering from acquired brain injuries.