Color Atlas of Genetics has many strengths that make it an appealing addition to a student’s bookshelf, whether the student may be in medical school, graduate school, or even an undergraduate. First, the diagrams and colored pictures are well drawn and easy to understand. Some of the best diagrams are those of signaling pathways, which are complete yet not overwhelming, as can be the case with similar drawings found within review journals. The subtopics under “Genetics and Medicine” contain photos of patients to explain phenotypes and detailed maps of the genomic abnormalities underlying the various diseases. In addition, the text of the book is incredibly succinct for the amount of material it aims to cover, without sacrificing the quality of the descriptions. While a professional in genetics may find the information lacking depth, the book serves as a great tool for an individual who only needs a quick reference but may want a little more information than he or she may be able to gain from Wikipedia.

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Reproductive Donation: Practice, Policy, and Bioethics. Edited by Martin Richards, Guido Pennings, and John B. Appleby. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press; 2012. 336 p. US $34.99 (Paperback). ISBN: 978-0521189934.

Since the founding of bioethics, considerable discourse has revolved around human life at some of its most fragile states, namely the beginning and end. Questions about what constitutes personhood and the roles and consequences of technology in these states have been posed and re-examined in light of the startling and impressive scientific developments that resulted in assisted reproduction. On July 25, 1978, Louise Brown was born — the first baby created using in vitro fertilization. Her birth sparked heated debate over a wide range of issues: cloning, separation of sexuality from reproduction, commodification of gametes and embryos, disposal of embryos, embryo ownership, rightful claims of parenthood, and pre-implantation research.

While these issues are being discussed, advances in reproductive technologies enable assisted reproduction to be a feasible option for infertility. This collection of essays delves into some of the issues that surround assisted reproduction, concentrating on reproductive donation involving various permutations of third parties. In reproductive donation, conception of a child “is likely to take place in a clinic with others involved in providing the eggs, sperm, embryo or sometimes the uterus in which the fetus grows” (p. 1). Thus, biological parenthood becomes separated from social parenthood, with the latter commonly recognized as the child’s “actual” parents. The opening chapters lay out the practice of reproductive donation, introducing ethical issues that are detailed in later chapters. The work as a whole is grounded in the U.K.’s policies, and the discussions of how countries regulate reproductive donation are often compared against the U.K. perspective. The last half of the work tackles the social, ethical, and policy issues that reproductive donation raise, including transnational donation, recruitment of donors, intra-family donation, single parents, gay and lesbian couples, disclosure, and identifiable donors.

Overall, the book is well laid out, exploring the topics with sufficient detail and depth for an interested lay reader. Despite the many contributors, the tone is consistently engaging and straightforward, with each chapter neatly presenting the various perspectives and arguments for its selected topic. In crafting their arguments, most of the contributors rely upon empirical studies instead of grounding their claims in philosophical discussion. Using a philosophical framework could bolster their discussions of the issues, allowing
the contributors to better parse out the tensions within reproductive donation. And surprisingly, with the exception of one chapter, the contributors do not draw upon parallel discussions related to adoption, which may have a body of literature that could assist scholars in reproductive donation. However, on the whole, the book is a valuable contribution in presenting from a variety of perspectives the many issues posed by reproductive donation.

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The Zebrafish: Atlas of Macroscopic and Microscopic Anatomy. By Joseph A. Holden, Lester J. Layfield, and Jennifer L. Matthews. Cambridge MA: Cambridge University Press; 2012. 147 p. US $105.49 (Paperback). ISBN: 978-1107621343.

The Zebrafish: Atlas of Macroscopic and Microscopic Anatomy is an excellent resource for zebrafish researchers examining mutant adults for morphological or tissue-level abnormalities. The text is geared toward scientists interested in studying human disease, and the introduction stresses the value of zebrafish as a model organism for studying oncogenesis and developmental disorders, from their low cost to early expression of phenotype.

Since zebrafish are typically known for their high resolution imaging capabilities and beautiful fluorescent reporters, I was initially surprised to discover a zebrafish book full of H&E stains. However, as the gross anatomical details of zebrafish are often overlooked in preference of live fluorescent imaging, The Zebrafish: Atlas of Macroscopic and Microscopic Anatomy provides a valuable contribution to the field.

The Zebrafish: Atlas of Macroscopic and Microscopic Anatomy provides 147 pages of full-color, large-format hematoxylin and eosin stains of both male and female adult zebrafish. The atlas begins with a cross section and longitudinal section reference atlas to orient the researcher within the fish. Here, the book provides full body-length images of both adult male and female zebrafish. Important features within each slice (retina, gills, and ventral aorta, for example) are prominently labeled and allow the researcher to fit each organ system into the larger organismal context. Next follow 13 chapters devoted to specific organ systems, such as the endocrine organs or kidney. A brief introduction is provided for each organ system, with an overview of that system’s structure, function, and purpose. The text is succinct but very clear, and the authors also provide helpful hints about alternative staining methods to better visualize certain tissues. Each chapter provides numerous high magnification images (anywhere from 20-600x) of tissues throughout the organ system, with specific cell types labeled. Overall, the text is an excellent reference for researchers as they compare their mutant phenotype of interest to an ideal, impeccably imaged standard.

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Biological Psychology: An Introduction to Behavioral, Cognitive, and Clinical Neuroscience. 7th Edition. By S. Marc Breedlove and Neil V. Watson. Sunderland, MA: Sinauer Associates, Inc.; 2013. 633 p. US $124.06 (Hardcover). ISBN: 978-1605351704.

The seventh edition of Biological Psychology has advanced the pedagogy of science education to accommodate and to teach a new generation of tech-savvy students about the biological basis of behavior. The text is sectioned into six parts with each division focusing on a variety of basic topics that are fundamental to the fields of behavioral, clinical, and cognitive neuroscience. Subject matter highlighted in the text begins with cardinal information on nervous system functioning and development, weaves through sensory processing, journeys briefly into the realm of emotions and mental illnesses, and ends the beginner’s odyssey of the brain and