

**The Invisible Human Body: An Atlas of Sectional Anatomy**

Gunther Von Hagens, Lynn J. Romrell, Michael H. Ross, Klaus Tiedemann. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1991, 151 pp., \$37.50.

For years we have needed a good cross-sectional anatomy reference text in the radiologic health sciences. While this volume is not the complete answer, it is a good beginning. The authors have put together a depiction of the human body viewed in slices.

The atlas is divided into seven parts: head and neck, upper extremity, thorax, abdomen, male pelvis and perineum, female pelvis and perineum, and lower extremity. An ex-

cellent index provides easy reference to any anatomical structure. In spite of the size of the atlas (10 x 14), the book opens flat making it easy to read. Anatomic structures are labeled clearly and easily correlated to structures on the MRI or CT images. The color plates are also correlated with MRI or CT images.

Using the technique of specimen plastination, the body is sliced in the frozen state at a thickness of 2.5 to 4 mm. The sections are processed to remove water and lipids, which are replaced with cured epoxy polymers. This process maintains the integrity of structural relationships, thereby enabling accurate color photographic reproductions. This new and revolutionary approach to depicting three-dimensional human anatomy results in an exciting reference atlas.

Dr. Von Hagens' revolutionary new

plastination technique makes looking at the photographs an exciting learning experience. As an educator, it has long been my concern that there are few three-dimensional anatomy texts for nuclear medicine technology students. While the atlas contains no nuclear medicine images, the basic anatomical details are readily correlated with the MRI and CT structures. This atlas is a "must have" for every reference library. Residents and practitioners will find the atlas a useful tool for studying cross-sectional anatomy.

At long last we have an exciting new anatomy atlas that uses a revolutionary technique to prepare anatomic specimens for photographic reproduction.

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