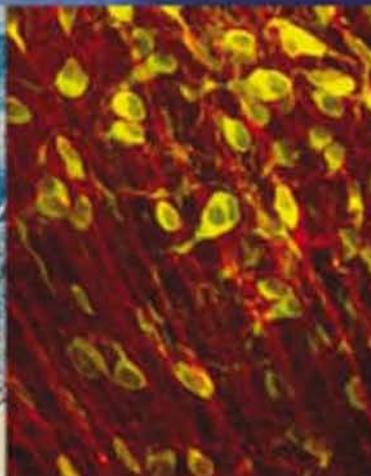


Fourth Edition

ORAL ANATOMY, HISTOLOGY and EMBRYOLOGY



B. K. B. Berkovitz • G. R. Holland • B. J. Moxham

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ORAL ANATOMY,
HISTOLOGY *and*
EMBRYOLOGY



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ORAL ANATOMY, HISTOLOGY *and* EMBRYOLOGY

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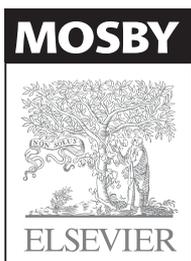
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Preface

This, the fourth edition of our book, follows the form and principles we established in the earlier third edition. Thus, although in that third edition we changed the format of the book from a textbook and atlas to a textbook, we retained the considerable number of illustrations, believing strongly that anatomical and histological textbooks must present information in a visual format. This fourth edition maintains this principle and we have expanded the book considerably to incorporate nearly 1100 illustrations (over twenty percent of the illustrations being new). This time, the expansion of the book has been accomplished without removing any of the topics covered in the previous edition. On the contrary, we have added a chapter on ageing of orodental tissues, because of the increased longevity of humans and the consequences of this to the types of patient seeking dental treatment. This chapter also includes some information concerning forensic dentistry and dental archaeological material. As for the earlier editions of our book, we have preferred, wherever possible, to use photographs and photomicrographs for our illustrations rather than diagrams or drawings, however expertly and artistically presented, as we wish to encourage students to look at 'real' material, warts and all!

As for the previous edition, we are adamant that dental students should not just learn basic ('core') material for oral anatomy, histology and embryology. These are important subjects that provide essential scientific material that should be appreciated by all dental surgeons who wish to consider themselves professionals (in all senses of the term). Indeed, it seems to us that a book such as this that attempts to be encyclopaedic in scope is increasingly necessary where there is a shortage of experienced teachers for the subjects covered! Furthermore, because of the increasing shortage of teachers with clinical backgrounds in dentistry, we have expanded the 'clinical considerations' section in most chapters of our book.

It is, unfortunately, increasingly difficult to obtain funding for basic dental research that involves significant amounts of morphological investigation. And yet, such research does continue and considerable advances in our knowledge of the microscopic anatomy and development of orodental tissues have occurred in recent times. All chapters have been reviewed. In some (e.g. enamel integuments), only minor changes were deemed necessary whereas in others (e.g. alveolar bone and the salivary glands) we have made significant additions. We have also taken the opportunity to improve some of the illustrations where no changes in the text were required. For example, all of the photographs relating to tooth morphology are new. Finally, we are, as ever, grateful to those readers who have provided comments and criticisms. We do not pretend to be infallible and would ask for indulgence if we have strayed from scientific rectitude!

2008

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