

MUST-HAVE BOOKS FOR THE BEGINNING OPHTHALMOLOGIST



BY ADAM JACOBSON, MD; AND ERIC ROSENBERG, DO

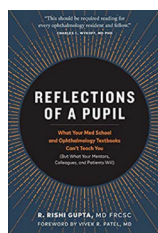
The transition from internship to residency is often as exciting as it is overwhelming. During this time period, budding ophthalmologists tend to thoroughly investigate big-ticket items, such as which ophthalmoscope will best fit

their needs and where to find reasonable living quarters. It is often easy to ignore smaller undertakings due to time constraints.

As ophthalmology residents, we were surprised to find that one frequently passed-over topic is which books to

purchase for residency. This article details our picks for two thought-provoking narratives and seven informative textbooks, each of which fills a particular niche on the educational spectrum and is a must-read before starting ophthalmology residency.

REFLECTIONS OF A PUPIL



No one should start residency, or any career in treating patients, without first reading *Reflections of a Pupil* by R. Rishi Gupta, MD, FRCS. This practical tapestry of short passages presents readers with all the adages of our wisest mentors in a concise and easy read. We strongly believe that this gem of a book will not only stand the test of time but also will mature alongside your career every time you pick it back up.

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

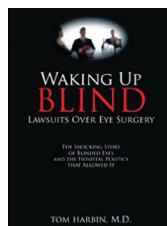
About a thousand of them—enjoy!

FAST FACTS

Cost | Print: \$18.95; eBook: \$9.99
Editor review | 5 stars

[BIT.LY/GTREFLECTIONS](http://bit.ly/gtreflections)

WAKING UP BLIND



The world was a different place in the 1980s, and those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. Doused in controversy, *Waking Up Blind* is a nonfiction work by Tom Harbin, MD, who courageously sheds light on the murky intersection between academia, medicine, law, responsibility, and, most important, character. We

simply couldn't put this book down, and the turn of every page implores the reader to consider his or her humility with respect to the trust bestowed upon physicians by their patients.

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

Never forget why you went into medicine in the first place.

FAST FACTS

Cost | Print: \$21.99; eBook: \$9.99
Amazon review | 4.7 stars

[BIT.LY/GTWAKING](http://bit.ly/gtwaking)

BASIC AND CLINICAL SCIENCE COURSE



The *Basic and Clinical Science Course*, or BCSC, is a 13-book set published by the AAO. Each book covers a particular topic in detail, making the BCSC a mainstay resource for ophthalmology residents throughout all 3 years of training. Most residents try to read the complete set once a year, although the information can be dense at times. This series is generally considered a necessity, as questions on the Ophthalmic Knowledge Assessment Program exam are derived from material found in these books.

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

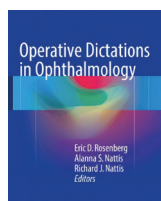
The gold standard for ophthalmic education.

FAST FACTS

Cost | Print: \$1,255; eBook: \$1,155; print + eBook: \$1,855
Amazon review | 5 stars

[BIT.LY/GTBCSC2018](http://bit.ly/gtbcsc2018)

OPERATIVE DICTATIONS IN OPHTHALMOLOGY



Operative Dictations in Ophthalmology serves as both a preparation and a debriefing for surgeons or surgeons-in-training by improving comprehension time and cultivating surgical forethought. It features dictation samples, detailed steps, abstract reviews, complications, and preoperative indications for nearly every surgical procedure a resident will encounter. More precisely, the book is 694 pages and reviews 160 procedures, and chapters are authored by leading experts within all ophthalmic subspecialties.

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

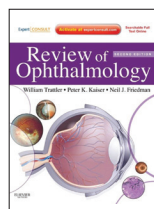
Never be unprepared to operate; otherwise, you won't.

FAST FACTS

Cost | Print: \$194; eBook: \$167
Amazon review | 5 stars

BIT.LY/GTDICTIONS

REVIEW OF OPHTHALMOLOGY



Review of Ophthalmology is a popular book (not the periodical of the same name) among ophthalmologists, and for good reason. William Trattler, MD, and coauthors provide easy-to-read text with many useful charts, outlines, and diagrams. Much like with *First AID* for the United States Medical Licensing Examination, many residents opt to supplement information from other texts and didactic sessions into *Review of Ophthalmology*.

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

First AID for ophthalmology.

FAST FACTS

Cost | Print + eBook: \$84.99; eBook: \$75.99
Amazon review | 4.6 stars

BIT.LY/GTREVOPHTH

KANSKI'S CLINICAL OPHTHALMOLOGY



Kanski's Clinical Ophthalmology is a 928-page, all-in-one textbook that provides a comprehensive foundation for ophthalmologists in training. Many residents find it easier to study from a single source, compared with the 13-volume BCSC series. Additionally, this text includes well-selected images that make integrating studying into clinical practice a seamless transition (a feature lost in many other sources).

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

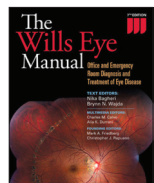
Classic systematic approach.

FAST FACTS

Cost | Print + eBook: \$214.79; eBook: \$187.19
Amazon review | 5 stars

BIT.LY/GTKANSKI

THE WILLS EYE MANUAL



With updated editions released yearly, *The Wills Eye Manual* is every resident's best friend while on call. This guide contains workups, exam findings, differentials, surgical techniques, and more. Plus, it is a surprisingly portable paperback that fits perfectly into a call bag. Complimentary copies for residents are available from Allergan.

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

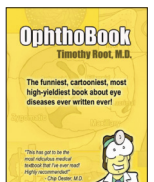
If you take call, you need *The Wills Eye Manual*.

FAST FACTS

Cost | Print: \$76.72; eBook: \$79.00
Amazon review | 4.3 stars

BIT.LY/GTWILLS

OPHTHOBOK



Best read during a busy intern year or as a medical student on away rotations, *OphthoBook* provides an easy-to-read and solid foundation of information for those interested in ophthalmology. Not only does Timothy Root, MD, drive home the important points, but he also provides fantastic supplementary YouTube videos reviewing ophthalmology exam techniques. Generations of ophthalmologists owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Root.

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

Cartoons + ophthalmology = instant winner.

FAST FACTS

Cost | Print: \$19.95; Online/PDF: free
Amazon review | 4.7 stars

BIT.LY/GTOPHTHO

LAST-MINUTE OPTICS



Although not everyone's favorite topic, optics is covered heavily on the Ophthalmic Knowledge Assessment Program exam. This book boils down the essentials into an easy-to-digest manual with clear ray diagrams.

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

Optics are hard; reading this is easy.

FAST FACTS

Cost | Print: \$54.90;
eBook: \$51.95
Amazon review | 4.5 stars

BIT.LY/GTOPTICS ■

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