Prompt recognition and management of a perioperative critical event is fundamental to safe anaesthetic practice. When this book was first published, over 20 years ago, it filled a niche in the market, by providing an overview of the exciting new developments in what has come to be widely known as crisis resource management (CRM), including insights into what can be gained from simulated practice and the contribution human factors play, and providing a succinct catalogue of the commonest perioperative critical incidents.

The distinguished authors of this latest edition build on these foundations, which now include new chapters on teaching CRM and the vitally important skill of debriefing colleagues after they have experienced such challenging events. The catalogue of critical incidents has been completely overhauled and updated, to reflect contemporary practice with nearly 20 new scenarios added. The list is comprehensive, but one notable omission is no consideration of accidental awareness, which has received much attention recently following the NAP 5 report. The emergency situations included, are classified in a variety of ways including by organ system and those relevant to sub-specialty areas of anaesthetic practice. For each event a standard format and headings are used including aetiology, typical situations where they might be encountered, manifestations, management and complications. On the basis that no one enjoys dealing with trouble unless you have to, the inclusion of notes on prevention for each scenario are particularly useful.

If I had any criticism then it is in the way the book is presented. The text is very dense with no illustrations or flow diagrams in the catalogue of critical events section, which undoubtedly would decrease utility in a crisis situation. Print size was far too small for this reviewer’s ageing eyes, with the main text and references at 10 and 8 font respectively.

This book is a welcome and long overdue update to a classic of crisis resource management in anaesthesia. It provides a comprehensive discussion of the latest theories, principles and practices for CRM in perioperative practice and will be a useful resource for anaesthetists of all grades and levels of experience, and the wider perioperative team, including trainees studying for post graduate examinations.

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The text book ‘Critical Care Ultrasound’ is a comprehensive account of application of Ultrasound in Critical Care. The editors along with 116 recognized experts have created this masterpiece, for those working in critical care environment. The faculty contributing is from across the world – North America, Europe including UK, China and Australia. The majority of contributors including editors, however, are from United States of America. The Editors and the contributors must be congratulated on coming up with an excellent text book.

There are 334 pages including the index and the book is presently available in hard bound. The book is divided into ten sections with a total of 62 chapters. The first section begins with the Fundamentals of Ultrasound. It explains the fundamental principles, terms and concepts used in ultrasound and are well written, in easy to understand language. The first section also sets the theme for the rest of the book by introducing the HOLoA concept of Ultrasound Imaging, HOLoA is an acronym and stands for HOListio Approach. The HOLoA concept, according to the authors, is defined as examining the patient from head to toe and to visualise all or any parts of the body, tissues and organs in the context of the whole patient’s examination. The first section is followed by sections on Neurocritical Care, Vascular Ultrasound, General Chest Ultrasound, Echocardiography, Haemodynamics, Abdominal and Emergency Ultrasound, Specialized Settings, Special Techniques and Applications. The Tenth and last section is about HOLoA Logistics and the Ultrasound Experience and the future prospects of Training and Credentialing.

The book also has full access online on Expertconsult.com. There is an access code on the inside of the front cover which enables the reader to access a library of excellent quality of videos. These videos supplement the text and are one of the many highlights of the book.

The book is easy to read and understand. At the end of each chapter there are expert comments by the authors – ‘pearls and highlights’ for that specific topic. The text is ably supported by excellent clinical images, photographs, figures, and tables. In my opinion, the book aims to and succeeds in fulfilling the appetite of different levels of expert in the use of ultrasound – from the beginner to the advanced practitioner.

In UK critical care practice, other than using ultrasound for vascular access, which is the norm now, we are slowly but surely beginning to embrace ultrasound in all its clinical aspects. The number of critical care practitioners, wheeling the portable ultrasound machine from the equipment room in their unit to the bedside, is increasing every day. It is heartening to note that these include both doctors and nurses. In the preface, it is mentioned that one of the aims of this book is to ‘ . . . titillate interest and stimulate changes in practice behaviours . . . ’ I certainly