

A DVD FOR NEUROLOGICAL DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS: HOW NEW TECHNOLOGY ADS VALUE TO A CLASSIC TEXTBOOK

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“Differential Diagnosis in Neurology”, now in its 5th edition, was published with a DVD containing new media from the life long collection of Professor Mark Mumenthaler. This is a result of a long collaboration with new media developer, Christof Daetwyler. It is the product of a friendship that finds fulfillment in the collective creation of “beautiful” things for medical education.

When Mark Mumenthaler was looking for individuals who would be suited as his successor in editing and maintaining his book “Differential Diagnosis in Neurology” up-to-date, he decided to have two new co-authors involved: the neurologist Claudio Bassetti and the media developer Christof Daetwyler. The neurologist was to keep the book content up-to-date, the media developer’s function was to add some media and keep it up to date with the ever change technical standards. The combination should make the book attractive to a future generation of users.

We used our imagination and experience to design the accompanying DVD. The main point was that it should not replace the reading of the book, but add functionality and other elements that the book could not offer. It should be easy to use and take advantage of the DVD format, which is becoming ubiquitous in entertainment and computer systems. Finally, it should assist the teacher as well as the learner.

Features of the “Differential Diagnosis in Neurology DVD” are:

- Movies of patients affected by medical conditions including seizures and movement disorders. The movies are enhanced by a second commentary sound track where Marco Mumenthaler adds comments to reveal his expert reasoning. The movies are either playable on any DVD player but they are available as MPEG 4 movies to be used on computers – and to be included into presentations whenever needed.
- Illustrations that are found in the book plus some that are not included in the printed medium.
- A searchable pdf file of the whole book.

We plan to make the videos online available for educational purposes.

We may follow the path that Paul Burrows and Eric Carlson used on the “NeuroLogic Exam” site <http://medstat.med.utah.edu/neurologicexam/>