

**“Teaching heart Auscultation to health professionals:  
methods for improving the practice of an ancient but critical skill”**

*A handbook for educators of physicians, residents and health professionals.*

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One of the most important skills for health professionals for the detection of heart disease is auscultation of heart sounds. Despite the importance of this skill, it is remarkably poorly performed by medical students and practicing physicians, according to many recent studies. The result is that many patients are referred for expensive and time consuming investigations unnecessarily, while other patients who have true pathology may not be referred in timely fashion

A major reason for poor auscultation skill is that teaching methods have changed little in the last 50 years. Medical schools generally do not employ modern validated protocols for teaching auditory recognition. There is a dearth of information available to health professional schools about effective methods and technology for teaching heart sounds auscultation. Further, outcomes are rarely measured.

This unique book includes invited articles from international experts on auscultation teaching and sound recognition. It provides extensive information on teaching methods, and new approaches to promote better teaching of this skill, to equip health professionals to better serve their patients.

Ordering: contact [john.finley@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:john.finley@iwk.nshealth.ca) or [www.bookstore.dal.ca](http://www.bookstore.dal.ca), scroll down to the "Quick Search". Cost: \$30CDN plus FST and postage.

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