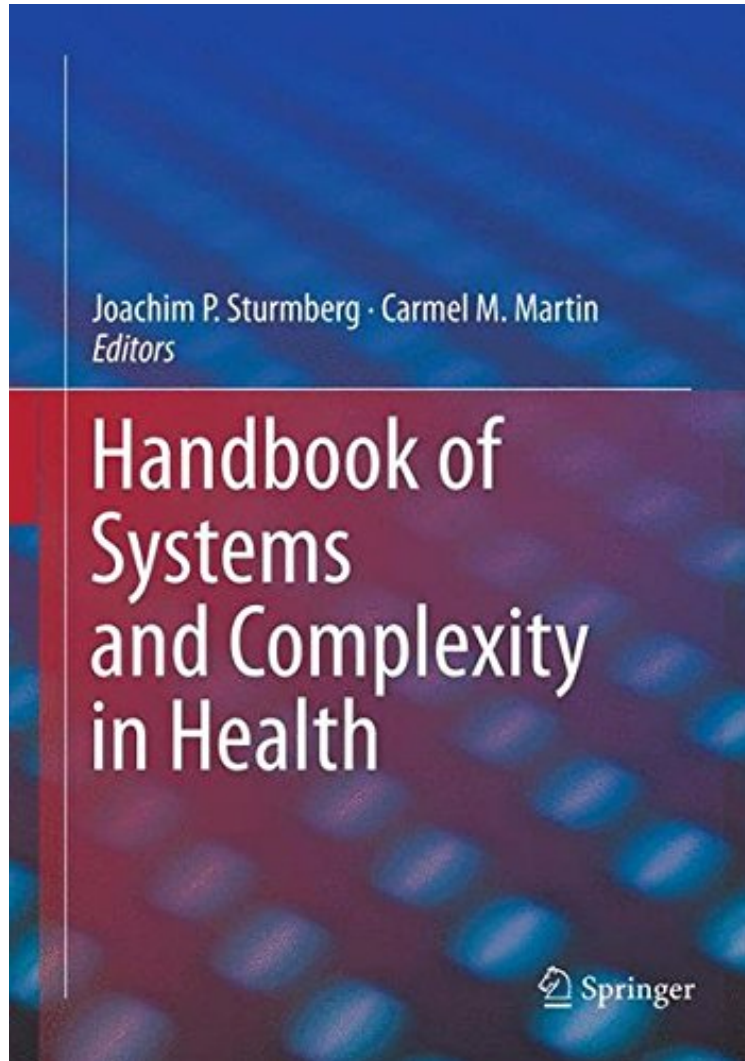


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Handbook of Systems and Complexity in Health

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From Ingramcontent : Handbook of Systems and Complexity in Health before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Handbook of Systems and Complexity in Health:

This book is an introduction to health care as a complex adaptive system, a system that feeds back on itself. The first section introduces systems and complexity theory from a science, historical, epistemological, and technical perspective, describing the principles and mathematics. Subsequent sections build on the health applications of systems science theory, from human physiology to medical decision making, population health and health services

research. The aim of the book is to introduce and expand on important population health issues from a systems and complexity perspective, highlight current research developments and their implications for health care delivery, consider their ethical implications, and to suggest directions for and potential pitfalls in the future.

From the book reviews: The book has appeal for health professionals including practitioners, educators, researchers, policy makers, and health administrators, as well as graduate students. It acknowledges a new role for educators -- to shake up ideas and to introduce students to networks, connections, and the contexts in which health occurs -- to instill a passion for lifelong learning. These features set this book apart and make it a welcome addition to the healthcare policy literature. (Carole Ann Kenner, *Doodys Book s*, January, 2015)

From the Back Cover: Systems and complexity theory plays critical roles in such varied fields as computer science, the physical sciences, meteorology, and economics--and yet health care has yet to take full advantage of what it has to offer. What the theory offers is on rich display as the *Handbook of Systems and Complexity in Health* presents a revolutionary approach to reforming basic practice and large-scale care delivery, based on the concept of health care as a complex, self-organized, and self-interactive system. The book's opening section provides readers with a thorough grounding in systems and complexity theory from scientific, historical, epistemological, and technical perspectives, complete with the principles and mathematics behind it. From there, contributors offer models of innovation and improvement in service delivery, disease prevention and health promotion, cost-effectiveness, communication, quality control--in short, a more efficient and equitable future for health care. And one particularly intriguing chapter suggests opportunities for complexity theory in refining the drug prescription process. A sampling of the coverage: Understanding health and illness from a complexity perspective. A methodology for analyzing medical data. Modeling illness and recovery with nonlinear dynamics. Clinical applications: inflammation, diabetes, panic disorder, pain, domestic violence, cardiovascular disorders, and the art of the consultation. Complexity science at the bedside: continuous multiorgan variability monitoring in critically ill patients. Primary care as a complex adaptive system. Researchers in health services research, health policy, and health administration will find in the *Handbook of Systems and Complexity in Health* a new way of viewing health and illness, and potentially a new way to organize health care delivery.

About the Author: Joachim P Sturmberg MBBS, DORACOG, MFM, PhD, FRACGP I am Adjunct A/Prof of Monash University, Melbourne, and Conjoint A/Prof of General Practice in the Department of General Practice in the Department of General Practice, General Practice, The Newcastle University, Newcastle, Australia. I am a graduate from Lbeck Medical School, Germany, where I also completed my PhD. Since 1989 I work in an urban group practice on the NSW Central Coast, with a particular interest in the ongoing patient-centred care of patients with chronic disease and the elderly. In 1994 I started to pursue systems and complexity research with an inquiry into the effects of continuity of care on the care processes and outcomes. Since then my research has expanded and includes the areas of understanding the complex notion of health, health care and healthcare reform, showing that health is an interconnected multi-dimensional construct encompassing somatic, psychological, social and semiotic or sense-making domains, that health care has to embrace the patients understanding of her health as the basis for effective and efficient care, and that an effective and efficient healthcare system ought to put the patient at the centre. I am joint chief editor of the Forum on Systems and Complexity in Medicine and Healthcare in the *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*. Together with Carmel Martin and Jim Price I chair the Complexity SIG in WONCA. Carmel C Martin MBBS, MSc, PhD, MRCGP, FRACGP, FAFPHM I am Visiting Academic Department of Public Health and Primary Care, Trinity College, Dublin, and an Associate Professor of Family Medicine at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. I am active in clinical general practice with a particular interest in chronic disease and illness and patient centered care and integrated care using information technology, informed by complex adaptive systems theories. I am an Australian medical graduate from the University of Queensland. I completed my Masters in Community Medicine at the London School of Hygiene, University of London and my PhD at the Australian National University. My research in Australia, Canada and Ireland has focused on reforms related to primary health care and chronic care, the nature of health in body, mind, society and the environment and meaning and sensemaking about personal health. My PhD. on the care of chronic illness in general practice, explored the nature of the experience of illness and care associated with multi-morbidity from the perspectives of those afflicted and their general practitioner/primary care physician as the key users of care. This PhD led to a wide range of systems based interventions, underpinned by complex adaptive systems theory and social constructionist perspectives in Australia, Canada and Ireland. I am joint chief editor of the Forum on Systems and Complexity in Medicine and Healthcare in the *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*.