

junct measures in the treatment of respiratory infections. Notable updates include an outline in the first section of significant advances in understanding of the immune responses of the lung, a new chapter about AIDS, and a number of updated portions in other chapters dealing with AIDS-related issues. A short section has been added addressing the use of newer antibiotics but should not be considered a definitive discussion of these agents. Other chapters remain relatively unchanged from the original edition.

The practical clinical approach of the book should prove useful to the general practitioner or internist. The text is well referenced, making it an excellent resource for the specialist in pulmonary or infectious diseases. I strongly recommend *Respiratory Infections* as a worthwhile addition to one's medical library. Those owning the first edition, however, may find the changes do not warrant purchasing this newer edition.

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RESPIRATORY FUNCTION OF THE UPPER AIRWAY

Edited by Oommen P. Mathew and Giuseppe Sant'Ambrogio
Marcel Dekker

For this 35th volume of the Lung Biology in Health Disease series, the editors selected a unique and often neglected topic: the contribution of the upper airway to pulmonary function. The book succeeds in explaining in detail the physiologic mechanism by which the upper airway contributes to the function of the respiratory system. The authors represent a wide array of specialists.

The text begins with a historical perspective, followed by a brief discussion of the evolution of the upper airway in vertebrates. The upper airway is described anatomically; the components are described in extensive detail with excellent illustrations. Included is a chapter dedicated to the structure and function of striated skeletal muscle in the upper aerodigestive tract.

The core of the book focuses on the central organization of respiratory function, afferent and efferent pathways, and reflex arcs that determine the upper respiratory component of respiratory control. Biomechanical aspects of the upper airway function, including components of nasal air flow resistance and modifications of inspired air, are emphasized. Additional topics include neonatal airway regulation and reflexes, phonation, and effects of tobacco on the upper airway.

The book is well organized; each chapter focuses on a

particular topic and covers the appropriate clinical and experimental data. Illustrations are well presented and supplement the written text. An extensive bibliography accompanies each of the chapters.

This ambitious work takes a controversial topic and attempts to provide a unified approach by integrating a large body of data. The text will serve as an excellent reference for pulmonologists, otolaryngologists, physiologists, and pediatricians.

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BREAST CANCER: COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT

Edited by Jay K. Harness, Harold A. Oberman, Allen S. Lichter, Dorit D. Adler, and Robert L. Cody
Lewis Publishers

Unusually broad in scope, with topics ranging from the economics of breast cancer to nursing care, this book is based on a conference held at the University of Michigan Breast Care Center in 1987. The conference focused on collaborative management of breast-cancer patients and the role of comprehensive breast centers.

The text is divided into four sections, but only the fourth, dealing with psychosocial issues and wellness, constitutes a unified segment. Chapters in the other three sections cover epidemiology, informed consent, the layman's perspective, mammography, fine-needle aspiration, surgical technique, radiation, chemotherapy, and reconstruction. Miscellaneous but interesting topics are the contralateral breast, pregnancy, occult carcinoma, and Paget's disease of the nipple. Surprisingly, there is no chapter on in situ cancer, which continues to be a dilemma for both patient and clinician.

A major focus is the new concept of comprehensive breast centers. The University of Michigan center is described in detail, and the future role of such centers is discussed. The authors believe that marketing forces will increase the importance and number of "breast centers" throughout the country. This topic has received little formal attention to date, and anyone with an interest in establishing a center should read this book. Having said that, I must add that my own efforts to set up such a center foundered on a variety of economic issues not completely explored by the editors. Remarkably, the Michigan center provides a broad range of services for a flat fee of less than \$50. Although not so stated, the Michigan model appears to be a "loss leader" that can be justified locally by the fact that it attracts patients re-

quiring hospitalization. A self-supporting comprehensive breast center would have to be organized along different lines. A more detailed review of both the Michigan center and the national scene would have been valuable.

Considering that this volume resulted from a conference, it is well edited, with a minimum of repetition. The fourth section brings together a variety of psychosocial issues that have received too little emphasis in books dealing with breast cancer. The chapter by Rose Kushner, in another section, provides significant insight to all physicians engaged in helping patients with breast cancer.

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DIABETES AND ITS OCULAR COMPLICATIONS

William E. Benson, Gary C. Brown, and William Tasman
W. B. Saunders

Diabetic retinopathy is quickly becoming one of the most vision-threatening disorders. The explosion of information about this entity is evidenced by the hundreds of publications pertaining to this subject. An impressive amount of new information on managing this entity is due to the advent of new therapies, including laser treatment and vitrectomy surgery.

This overview of diabetic retinopathy includes demography, contributing environmental and systemic factors, and genetic factors. A discussion of the pathogenesis of tissue damage and the blood state in the diabetic patient as they relate to development of diabetic retinopathy is excellent. The psychophysical and electrophysiological abnormalities, as well as the significance of the abnormal blood-retina barrier, are also described.

A reading of the section on clinical findings is worthwhile not only for the ophthalmologist but for general practitioners, internists, and diabetologists. There is an excellent examination of the various medical modalities and the various controlled studies pertaining to diabetic retinopathy. Additional conditions involving the eye are also discussed. The beneficial role of laser and vitrectomy surgery is well covered.

This brief text is an excellent primer not only for ophthalmology residents, but also for special fellows and ophthalmologists in general, regardless of specialization. In addition, it's an excellent reference for internists, medical students, and diabetologists. The book certainly

deserves a place in every library. Drs. Benson, Brown, and Tasman are to be congratulated on this timely, well-documented, and very useful text.

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CHILDHOOD ASTHMA: PATHOPHYSIOLOGY AND TREATMENT

Edited by David G. Tinkelman, Constantine J. Falliers, and Charles K. Naspitz
Marcel Dekker

As evidenced by this good-sized text and its hundreds of references, the medical and basic science literature on the topic of asthma grows with quickening pace. It has become most difficult to stay abreast of discoveries and theories on the pathophysiology of this disease. Then too, as the array of drugs available for treating asthma expands, so does uncertainty over best choices for first-line and multi-drug regimens.

The editors have brought together the expertise of numerous researchers and clinicians to cover the scope of current understanding of childhood asthma, from the laboratory bench to the bedside. In the first several chapters, discussion of lung defenses, lung injury, mediators of inflammation, and pathophysiologic mechanisms holds the clinician's attention by frequent reference to the clinical implications of these chemical and cellular processes.

The more practical matters of diagnosis and treatment are the focus of the latter two-thirds of the book. Herein lies this book's potential for significant impact on the way physicians manage the asthmatic child. With the aid of some excellent tables and lists, the text carefully describes the complete work-up of the child who wheezes.

Following a textual description of the various available drugs and their modes of action, algorithms for treating acute and chronic asthma are offered. So applied, these are effective learning tools. Other strengths are the chapters that cover nonpharmacologic approaches to and psychologic aspects of asthma—topics that are of growing importance as asthma becomes correctly viewed as a chronic rather than an episodic disease.

For a book with multiple authors, there is surprisingly little overlap in content. Clear subheadings in each chapter make locating topics simple, enhancing the text's utility. The index is brief but adequate. References are extensive and include literature to within a year of publication (1987).