

and systematic than lectures? Maybe they use it only as a reference and resort to the book only occasionally. In any case, it is nice to know that students buy and like pathology books of this kind, and that pathology books have a future, even in a multidisciplinary medical school curriculum.

The book is, if I remember the conversation with Professor Underwood well, also used in other countries outside of the UK. Even a brief perusal of the book will tell you why: it is an example of concise British writing and teaching at its best. The text is elegantly structured, subdivided into logical subsections and paragraphs, and supplemented with good illustrations, summary tables and diagrams. Many topics are presented in a bulleted form and the important words are set in italics. It is a very student-friendly book and it reads well.

The material is presented comprehensively and systematically. The highlights of the book are brief outlines summarizing the salient features of each disease. These summary statements serve as take-home messages and could only facilitate learning. Composite drawings of clinical signs and symptoms, summarizing the principal clinical findings in important diseases or their complications are yet another highlight. Color-coded page sides make the book easier to use and contribute to its esthetic appeal.

The book has a clinical orientation and the pathology findings are frequently correlated with the clinical data. This is especially well done in the chapters dealing with systematic pathology. Among the various presentation approaches, I

liked the tabular lists of main signs and symptoms, in which each clinical finding is accompanied by a brief pathophysiologic explanation.

The book hails from Sheffield and almost a half of all the contributors are from Professor Underwood's University. Like any other multi-authored book, some chapters are better than others, but most of them are very good. Some chapters, especially some of the general pathology pieces authored by the Editor, could be considered as outstanding.

At the end of each chapter, there are recent references for further reading.

Limitations: I did not notice any major limitations. Some microphotographs may be a bit too complex for medical students (for example complex vs atypical hyperplasia of the endometrium) and would be easier understood by a novice reader if properly marked up.

Related reading: This UK textbook competes with another UK textbook (Stevens and Lowe), which is much shorter but contains more illustrations. Underwood's General and Systematic Pathology is shorter than the leading American textbooks of pathology, such as the Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease (edited by Kumar V, Abbas AK, and Fausto N), Rubin's Pathology – Clinicopathologic Foundations of Medicine (edited by Rubin E, Gorstein F, Rubin R, Schwartz R, and Strayer D); it is more comparable in size to the shorter versions of these textbooks.

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Cagle PT, editor. Color Atlas and Text of Pulmonary Pathology, Philadelphia (PA): Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2005. 675 pages; ISBN 0-7817-3453-3; price: \$275.00

Field of Medicine: Anatomic pathology, cytopathology, pulmonary medicine.

Format: Hardcover.

Audience: Practicing pathologists and cytopathologists, pathologists in training, pulmonologists, thoracic surgeons.

Purpose: To provide a diagnostic manual of pulmonary pathology and cytopathology to hospital based laboratory diagnosticians dealing with various aspects of lung diseases.

Content: The book is divided into 150 chapters, grouped into 24 sections. The book begins with an overview of normal microscopic anatomy and cytology of the bronchi and lungs. A short section is devoted to artifacts and age related changes. All other sections deal with neoplastic and non-neoplastic lung diseases. The references for each section are given at the end of the book.

Each chapter is structured uniformly to include a brief description of the disease under the discussion, a list of typical microscopic findings, and several color photographs illustrating these diagnostic features. Cytologic findings are included whenever a cytopathologic examination is expected to provide diagnostic data.

Highlights: This is an atlas of pulmonary pathology and cytopathology which, as stated on the back cover of the book, was prepared to serve "as a roadmap to faster, more accurate diagnosis of pulmonary disease." As in any other atlas, the emphasis is on illustrations, which are informative and attractive. Most photographs were prepared from microscopic slides, but there are also quite a few figures of gross specimens culled from the autopsy or surgical pathology files. As one would expect, exfoliative and fine needle aspiration cytology findings are most numerous in the chapters dealing with tumors. Nevertheless, the cytopatho-

logic aspects of infectious diseases are also presented. The reader will easily find representative pictures of common diseases such "owl eye nuclei," of cytomegalovirus-infected alveolar cells, but also uncommon pathogens such as *Paragonimus westermani*. Without exception, the illustrations are all of highest quality and reproduced in an attractive format. The editors and contributors deserve congratulations for the material that they have assembled in this volume.

The book covers pulmonary pathology most comprehensively. Common and more important diseases are illustrated in greater detail than the less common diseases. Still, there are more than enough pages set apart to include new entities and rare diseases such as Erdheim-Chester disease or hantavirus infection. Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), caused by coronavirus SARS-RoV and recognized during the 2002 epidemic, is also presented.

This multiauthored book contains texts and illustrations provided by 36 pathologists, most of whom are from the United States. The contributions from Mexico, Philippines, Austria, and Turkey give the book an international flair. The team effort was coordinated by Dr Philip Cagle, who was aided by seven associate editors. The Editor-in-Chief and his Associate Editors coauthored many chapters and obviously worked very closely with other authors. This approach probably accounts for the cohesiveness of the text and the uniformity of presentation of the material in each and every chapter.

This book belongs to the surgical pathology sign-out room and should be kept close to the microscope. I anticipate that it will be used primarily as a diagnostic aid and for quick reference. However, residents and fellows studying

pulmonary pathology might find in it a substitute for more verbose textbooks and read it cover to cover. The book could also help them prepare for specialty examinations.

Limitations: I did not notice major limitations of this book. The layout might have been maybe somewhat more compact to avoid so many blank pages, but this is my personal bias. This minor quibble should not detract the potential readers from this first class atlas.

Related reading: At present, there are no comprehensive atlases of pulmonary pathology and from that point of view this book is unique. Readers looking for more detailed textual coverage of the same material could consult *Practical Pulmonary Pathology: A Diagnostic Approach*, by KO Leslie, and M Wick.

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Riede U-N, Werner M, Schäfer H-E. Allgemeine und spezielle Pathologie, 5th completely revised edition. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag; 2004. 1236 pages; 1720 illustrations. ISBN 3-13-683305-8; price: € 79.95

Field of Medicine: Anatomic pathology, histopathology, molecular medicine, clinical pathology, and laboratory medicine.

Format: Hardcover.

Audience: Medical students, pathology teachers, pathology residents. The textbook can also be used by professors in other medical disciplines and basic sciences. It can also be used by professors of veterinary and dental medicine, but it is too detailed for their students.

Purpose: To present pathology to students of medicine in the traditional format, as taught in most European medical schools.

Content: The book is divided into 20 chapters, covering general and systemic pathology. General pathology is presented in eight chapters, which include a general discussion about life, disease and death, cell pathology and pathology of the extracellular material, disturbances of metabolism, response to injury, disturbances of inheritance and development, disturbances of cell growth, and disturbances of circulation. The 12 chapters dealing with systemic pathology include

those devoted to the cardiovascular system, respiratory system, digestive system, hepatopancreatic system, urinary system, female genital organs and the placenta, male genital system, skin, endocrine system, nervous system, and skeleto-muscular system. At the end of the book there is a glossary of the most common terms.

The book is lavishly illustrated and contains 1,720 illustrations, most of which are in color. Illustrations present various aspects of macroscopic, microscopic, and submicroscopic pathology, numerous diagrams, and conceptual multicolored drawings presenting the crucial concepts in a simplified format.

Highlights: This is a well-thought-through edition of the leading German textbook of pathology widely used in the German speaking countries of Europe. It has been also popular with professors of pathology in other European countries, especially in those where the classical Virchow-Rokitansky traditions are still alive. The fact that the book is now in its fifth edition since 1986 and the fact that it is accompanied by a soft

cover digest of the pictures attest to its popularity and usefulness.

The list of contributors reads like a list of who-is-who of German, Austrian, and Swiss pathology and includes over 40 pathologists from various medical schools. The book was edited by the triumvirate from Freiburg, headed by the *spiritus movens* and the consummate medical educator Professor Ursus-Nikolaus Riede, for whom this book is obviously a labor of love.

In many respects this is a typical German book, and by that I meant to give the authors a compliment. Its "Germanic" aspects that I admired the most are the systemic approach, thorough coverage of the material, logical presentation of the facts, and emphasis on didactics. To this end, each and every major disease is presented in a standardized format. In essence, all contributors were asked to adhere to the unified format of presentation and cover their topics under the following headings: Definition, Pathogenesis, Morphology. Whenever indicated, a paragraph on etiology and clinical aspects of that disease is included. Since this is a textbook of pathology, the clinical data are usually presented in smaller font size and also marked with a color line on the side, to make them stand out separately from the main body of the textbook. Personally, I like this approach, probably because I was imprinted by it in the early sixties while studying medicine at the University in Zagreb, Croatia. Comments of current Croatian students of medicine who were asked to criticize our new Croatian textbooks of pathology (published in 2004) indicate that the tradition is still alive, and that they also prefer a systematic approach over discursive narration in a textbook.

Pathology is a visual discipline and a review of a pathology textbook would be incom-

plete without mentioning numerous high quality photographs, line drawings, and diagrams. Without exception, the illustrations are first class. My compliments to the contributors and, above all, the editors who chose them so judiciously. I especially liked the occasional museum reproductions that add a touch of class, like Albrecht Dürer's painting of a rachitic child or an Egyptian bas-relief of a polio-stricken man showing atrophy of the leg muscles. My absolute favorite is, however, the white blood ("leukemia") squirting out of the beheaded body of Saint Katharine of Alexandria! Such illustrations will stay in students' minds longer than microphotographs and will remind them longer and more consistently of the crucial role that pathology played in their medical education.

Limitations: This is an excellent textbook and I do not have significant complaints. One could argue whether it was wise not to use references at the end of each chapter, but on the other hand, since this is a book for medical students, I fully understand the reasons for eliminating them. One could also argue whether the list of diseases discussed is too long, but I think that there is no harm in trying to be too comprehensive and including even some esoteric or rare pathologic entities like cholaskos. I happen to belong to the school of educators who believe that a true textbook should differ from a mere outline and that students should study – actively pick and choose from the material that they have been offered.

Related reading: This German textbook compares favorably with the standard American and British textbooks of pathology such as the Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease (edited by Kumar V, Abbas AK, Fausto N), Rubin's Pathology – Clinicopathologic Foundations of Medicine (edited by Rubin E, Gorstein F, Rubin R, Schwartz R, Strayer D) and General and Systemic Pathology (edited by Underwood JCE).

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Blumenthal M, Brinckmann J, Wollschlaeger B. The ABC Clinical Guide to Herbs. Austin (TX): American Botanical Council; 2003. 480 pages; ISBN 3-13-132391-4; price: \$69.95

Field of medicine: Herbal medicine.

Format: Hardcover book.

Audience: Physicians, pharmacists, nurses, nutritionists, other healthcare professionals, and patients.

Purpose: To expand the knowledge of healthcare practitioners in the area of herbal medicine, and to provide health professionals with quick information on the most widely used herb products.

Contents: The book is divided into 29 chapters, each dedicated to a single herb. These herbs are among best-selling and most popular in the USA. Each chapter contains a clinical overview, patient information sheet, and comprehensive monograph.

Clinical overviews are intended to provide health professionals with quick information on the most commonly used herb products. The most interesting section provides doses for different types of preparations. Patient information sheets are meant for photocopying and distribution to the patients in order to assist practitioners in conveying the important information to their patients. The monographs include the following sections: Overview, Description, Uses (Primary Uses and Other Potential Uses), Dosage, Duration of Administration, Chemistry, Pharmacological Actions, Mechanisms of Action, Contraindications, Adverse Effects, Drug Interactions, APHA Safety Rating, Regulatory Status in USA and other Industrialized Nations, Clinical Review, and Table of Clinical Studies. The sheets provide the essence of the information given in the monographs. Each section is supported with references to: clinical trials, pharmacological studies, toxicological studies, chemical analyses, books, and review articles.

At the end of each chapter, a list of the published clinical trials on a particular herb is provided, except for the goldenseal root.

Most tables are divided into subsections dealing with the primary research parameter of the study. Tables include author and year, subject, design, duration, dose, preparation used, and results/conclusions of the study. Since this book is not intended to offer detailed information on each herb, all chapters are very concise and concrete, with emphasis on clinical research performed on each of selected herb.

Highlights: The popularity of herbal medicine is growing and general practitioners are more and more often treating patients who, besides allopathic treatment, use many herbal preparations. These physicians are the ones who will find this book most useful, because it offers evidence-based approach to herbal medicine, provides their adverse effects and contraindications, as well as information on interactions with other drugs. Although there are many books on this subject, it is very difficult to find the book so expertly written, reviewed, and evidence-based as the ABC guide to herbs. This book is valuable guide for physicians and other healthcare professionals, containing simple, concrete, and scientifically approved data. It provides references for most important clinical trials on selected herbs. Its concise and concrete form makes it easily comprehensible reading.

Limitations: The main limitation of this book is the small number of described herbs.

Related reading: The same publisher offers a wide range of similar books: Duke JA, Bogenschutz-Godwin MJ, Duceellier J. CRC handbook of medicinal spices, 2002; Lewis WH, Lewis MP. Medical botany: plants affecting human health, 2nd ed., 2003; Schulz V, Hänsel R, Tyler V. Rational phytotherapy: a reference guide for physicians and pharmacists. 5th ed., 2004; and Mills S, Bone K. Essential guide to herbal safety; 2005.

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