eated and the breaks in topics/chapters are logical. Each chapter is approximately 10 pages, and there is sufficient detail; the book’s brevity does not compromise the content, detail, or quality. In fact, each author does a really good job of presenting research information in the context of the background problem and clinical dilemma, all in a relatively concise manner. Most importantly, the authors’ own research contributions to the field are conveyed. For example, Dr Safar’s chapter on cerebral resuscitation begins with an introduction to the epidemiology of cardiac arrest and reversible cardiopulmonary cerebral resuscitation, followed by definitions used in resuscitation research for the past 40 years and an historical account of the development of cerebral resuscitation research. Dr Safar’s involvement in these early efforts makes reading this chapter particularly interesting. He writes, “Around 1950, when I was an anesthesiology resident at the University of Pennsylvania, Seymour Kety pioneered measurements of cerebral blood flow, cerebral oxygen uptake, and cerebral glucose consumption. . . . Since the 1960s our goal has been to maximize the brain’s tolerance of normothermic cardiac arrest.” The reader knows that the word “our” in the previous sentence is not used in the general sense but rather with the author as a central contributing authority on the subject.

The book’s physical appearance, including size, is attractive. It has a soft cover with blue and white print. I would have preferred to have this book published in hard cover, however, because there is already wear and tear on the cover of my copy. The book’s print and paper are of good quality and there are few typographical errors. The subject index is user-friendly and logical. Figures, drawings, and graphs are well represented and appropriately used to highlight important concepts. For example, in Chapter 2, the potential mechanisms involved in neural regulation of the cerebral circulation are illustrated using simple black-and-white drawings to demonstrate the complex interactions between vasoactive agents (adenosine and nitric oxide), neurotransmitters (acetylcholine, vasoactive intestinal peptide), and astrocyte foot processes. Similarly, Figure 4 of Chapter 6 (by Kochanek et al), “Ischemic Mechanisms of Traumatic Brain Injury,” describes the putative mechanisms (eg, adenosine, nitric oxide, alcohol) of post-traumatic hypoperfusion, which are currently being investigated in clinical and experimental traumatic brain injury. Not every chapter has a concluding paragraph or text devoted to discussion of needed future research, but when included, the perspectives presented are interesting and add to the information already presented. Finally, the information given is well referenced, has little unsubstantiated expert opinion, and is highly credible. In my opinion, this book is, at $50, a good buy.

For those of you who are not yet sold on the book, let me entice you by saying that I tried to make a list of chapters I found particularly interesting, but in fact I learned from every chapter and ended up listing almost all of them. So pick up a copy and take a month to leisurely read Pinsky’s Cerebral Blood Flow: Mechanisms of Ischemia, Diagnosis and Therapy.

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REFERENCE


Respiratory & Pulmonary Medicine: An Internet Resource Guide provides an inventory of reference information on pulmonary disease, clinical studies and trials, statistics, journals, articles, and abstracts in pulmonary medicine. It is an excellent reference guide for physicians, health care providers, medical students, and educators.

The book is organized in an outline format and incorporates a reference key, which classifies resources on a scale of 1 to 3. A rating of 3 indicates the site provides more in-depth information. For instance, the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology’s glossary Web site (http://allergy.mcg.edu/glossary/) provides an overview of terms related to allergy and immunity, including common therapeutic drugs, whereas the Glossary of Respiratory Disorder Terms is very simplistic in format and more suited for the layperson. The outline consists of a summarized table of contents that provides a snapshot of the textbook, followed by the standard table of contents and subcategories.

The book is divided into 2 parts: Respiratory and Pulmonary Medicine Web Resources, and General Medical Web Resources. It is further subdivided into 14 chapters: Introduction; Quick Reference; Journals, Articles, and Latest Books; Continuing Medical Education; Respiratory and Pulmonary Medicine Overview Sites; Biological, Diagnostic, and Therapeutic Aspects; Other Topical Resources; Organizations and Institutions; Diseases and Disorders; Reference Information and News Sources; Professional Topics and Clinical Practice; Medical Student Resources; Patient Education and Planning; and Web Site and Topical Index.

The introduction provides an overview of how to use the book, including steps on how to access the Internet and most effectively use eMedguides.com, along with an “e-Link” number assigned to each Web site in the text. What makes this resource guide exceptional is the Web-linked title page. The title page duplicates the table of contents, although it is slightly out-of-sequence with the textbook. For example, Chapters 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 13 represent different chapters in the book. Also, Chapter 9, “Diseases and Disorders,” and Chapter 14, “Web Site and Topical Index,” are excluded from the Web-link title page. The e-Link feature allows quick navigation through various Web sites, eliminating the need to type complete Web addresses for various sites on a given topic. It also provides updated Web address information for sites that may have undergone reconstruction. Although the e-Link number simplifies access to various sites, it complicates the process by requiring the reader to select a Specialty Guide topic prior to entering the e-Link number. The Specialty Guide section offers other resources for various health care disciplines, including emergency medicine, general surgery, radiology, and many others. Two methods are incorporated into the system for Web site access: e-Link and the table of contents. The e-Link method provides access to a selected site (eg, R-0007 supplies a link to the American Lung Association Web site (http://www.lungusa.org/pub/), whereas the table of contents method provides a com-
plete listing of all Web sites associated with a chosen chapter of the book. For example, selection of Disorder Profiles from Chapter 2 displays a list of associated Web sites and a brief description of each. Because this is an Internet resource guide, it may challenge those who lack computer savvy.

Part One of the book is dedicated to resources related to pulmonary disease, clinical studies, clinical practice guidelines, medical abstracts, articles, journals, research and funding opportunities, and professional health organizations. The section related to pulmonary disease provides resources such as the American Lung Association, eMedicine (http://www.emedicine.com/med/PULMONOLOGY.htm) and http://www.emedicine.com/med/THORACIC_SURGERY.htm, and Virtual Hospital’s Chest Imaging Database (http://www.vh.org/Providers/TeachingFiles/ITTR/ITTR.html). Thus, one may obtain fact sheets, overviews, case presentations, and in-depth information related to pathology and treatment.

Journals are listed in chronological order and a vast array of Web sites are cited. Most have an associated fee for article access but are noted as such. The Annals of Thoracic Surgery offers free access (http://ats.ctsnetjournals.org) and contains a collection of topics that are printable in full text or abstract format.

The continuing medical education resource is most suited for physicians, as it provides a wealth of information on seminars, conferences, and on-line continuing education opportunities. Resources such as the American College of Chest Physicians (http://www.chestnet.org/education/calendar/index.html) and the American Thoracic Society (http://www.thoracic.org) are cited. Governmental resources include the Centers for Disease Control (http://www.cdc.gov/nheal/default.htm) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (http://www.osha.gov). The Centers for Disease Control is an excellent resource for current research and statistical data relating to various health care topics, particularly in the areas of prevention. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration provides information regarding conferences, publications, and current newsworthy events.

The National Institutes of Health (http://www.nih.gov) provides resources for research opportunities and grant support. The site lists separate categories for research training opportunities and both intramural and extramural research.

Part Two of the book focuses on reference information, federal health agencies, and professional, student, and patient health information resources.

The Health and Medical Hotline (http://nhic-nt.health.org/Scripts/Tollfree.cfm) provides toll-free health information on acquired immune deficiency syndrome, heart disease, diabetes, and many other health-related topics. The organizations linked to this hotline include the American Institute for Preventative Medicine and the American Parkinson Disease Association. Several federal health agency Web sites are listed: Federal Web Locator (http://www.infocr.edu/fwl); Department of Health and Human Services (http://www.os.dhhs.gov); Administration for Children and Families (http://www.acf.dhhs.gov); Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (http://www.ahrq.gov/); and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (http://fda.gov). These sites provide information for consumers and health care providers.

Professional resources provide information on clinical practice management, clinical trials, dissertation abstract databases, grant and funding resources, preventive medicine, and public health.

The student reference category incorporates general resources, such as the American Medical Association (http://www.ama-assn.org), a section on fellowship and residency opportunities (eg, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (http://www.acgme.org/About/about.asp) and the Electronic Residency Application Service (http://www.aamc.org/students/eras/) and other resources related to medical schools.

The patient section includes topics and associated links on food and nutrition (eg, American Diabetes Association (http://www.diabetes.org/), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (http://www.fda.gov/), grief and bereavement (eg, MEDLINEplus Health Information (http://medlineplus.gov/), on-line drug stores (eg, CVS Pharmacy, Ecker-d.com), patient education, and support groups. "Respiratory & Pulmonary Medicine: An Internet Resource Guide" is an excellent supplemental resource to any health-related program of study.

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Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) is a clinical condition secondary to a variety of insults leading to a severe acute respiratory failure and high mortality in critically ill patients. Patients with ARDS generally require mechanical ventilation, which is another important factor that may increase the ALI (acute lung injury) by a series of pathophysiological mechanisms, whose common element is the initial volutrauma in the alveolar units, and forming part of an entity known clinically as ventilator-induced lung injury (VILI).


SELF-ASSESSMENT AND BOARD REVIEW For use with the 18th edition of HARRISON'S PRINCIPLES OF INTERNAL MEDICINE EDITED BY CHARLES M. WIENER, MD Dean/CEO Perdana University Graduate School of Medicine Selangor, Malaysia Professor of Medicine and Physiology Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Baltimore, Maryland CYNTHIA D. BROWN, MD Assistant Professor of Medicine Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. University of Virginia Charlottesville, Virginia ANNA R. HEMNES, MD Assistant Professor, Division of Allergy, Pulmonary, and Critical Care Medicine Vanderbilt University Medical Ce