

most, if not all, clinicians to possess a basic understanding of pleural disease, at least as it applies to their patient population.

Few textbooks can rival the comprehensiveness of **Pleural Disease**. Although the book has some overlap in some subjects, it does improve the overall readability of the book. For practicing pulmonologists about 25% of their consultative work centers on the diagnosis and management of pleural diseases, and most general pulmonary textbooks lack adequate detail in this subject, so practitioners usually rely on time-consuming searches of the medical literature to answer questions about pleural disease. This text provides an excellent reference for the diagnosis and management of common and rare pleural diseases. The chapters are state-of-the-art, comprehensive, and a "must have" for any clinician who is asked to evaluate and manage complex and often difficult-to-diagnose pleural disease cases. The book's intended readership is fairly focused on pulmonary medicine; however, medical oncologists, thoracic surgeons, and general internists would have interest in this book. In summary, I commend Demosthenes Bouros, editor of **Pleural Disease** for his ability to present one of the most comprehensive texts regarding the pleura.

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Bove and Davis' Diving Medicine, 4th edition. Alfred A Bove MD PhD. Philadelphia: Elsevier Science/Saunders. 2004. Hard cover, illustrated, 623 pages, \$84.95.

Now in its fourth edition, **Bove and Davis' Diving Medicine** is a well-respected resource in the field of diving medicine. It is a comprehensive text of diving medicine and physiology starting at first principles with diving physics and building to specialized chapters such as an entire chapter on aseptic necrosis of bone. Eric Kindwall's chapter on the history of diving medicine is a fascinating read from one of the key contributors to the field. **Bove and Davis' Diving Medicine** was first published in 1976, with more of a physiology focus. Over the subsequent editions, more and more clinical information has been included. This newest edition has several important improvements

over the previous versions. Most chapters have been revised and re-organized and new contributing authors have been brought on board. Most notably, there is a new chapter on diabetes and diving by Duke Scott and Allan Marks. Those authors have also included a very useful appendix with a recommended protocol for diabetes management during recreational scuba diving. There is also a separate chapter on medical evaluation for sport diving, the information in which was previously in the chapter on commercial and military diving. Other new additions include new chapters on the kinetics of inert gas and marine poisoning and intoxication. As has always been the aim of the book's editor, each chapter is written by a renowned author or authors in the subject. Each chapter includes a detailed, accurate reference list with recent references.

The stated readership of the book is "physicians who provide care for divers," but the book has a far broader appeal. A wide variety of health care professionals would find this book useful. In fact, there is so much background (eg, on diving equipment, physics, and physiology), a reader with little or no background in diving medicine could still appreciate this book. Correspondingly, in a book of this size (623 pages) some more experienced readers might be disappointed that some of the chapters are not as in-depth as in other larger diving medicine texts.

The fourth edition includes an excellent chapter on "Women in Diving," by Maida Beth Taylor. This fascinating chapter starts by discussing physiologic differences between male and female divers and fetal diving physiology. Taylor then tackles many female-specific clinical concerns, such as endometriosis, contraception, and menstruation, as they relate to diving. Taylor even includes such details as the diving medicine ramifications and relative buoyancy of saline versus silicone breast implants. This chapter also covers the recent Women's Health Initiative study on hormone replacement therapy in post-menopausal women and how it relates to divers.

RESPIRATORY CARE readers may be disappointed by the shortness of the chapter on pulmonary disorders. At 10 pages, it is one of the shortest chapters in the book. The author, Tom Neuman, treats the controversial area of asthma and diving in a debate format. He presents the cases both *for* and *against* asthmatics diving. This debate format is particularly apt for such a contentious area. Neuman addresses the physio-

logic and epidemiologic arguments for both sides very well. This debate is followed up by some general recommendations that are similar to the current recommendations by the British Thoracic Society, with one notable exception: those guidelines recommend against diving with exercise-induced or cold-induced asthma. Neuman's recommendations are more permissive, in that he suggests that divers who pass an appropriate challenge test of cold-induced or exercise-induced asthma should be permitted to dive. The chapter also includes helpful discussions on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in diving and special tests of the respiratory system.

The editor's aim was to provide comprehensive coverage of the salient areas of diving medicine and physiology. The level of discussion provides a broad appeal, and the topics covered are relevant to many health care professionals. Specifically, I was pleased to see chapters on both free-diving and mixed-gas diving, both of which are rapidly becoming more popular and therefore need separate treatment in a diving medicine text. Moreover, the editor chose to include other topics outside the standard decompression illness realm, such as drowning, hypothermia, and marine animal injuries. The writing style is generally very readable, although the section on bubble physics is relatively technical and I thought probably necessary.

Bove and Davis' Diving Medicine is presented in an attractive, compact format. The price is very reasonable, especially for a text of this quality. The illustrations and figures, presented in black-and-white, are helpful additions to the material presented in the text. Color illustrations would certainly be welcome in certain subjects, especially marine poisoning, which has many pictures of dangerous sea creatures and their consequences such as rashes and envenomations. Black-and-white photographs unfortunately do not adequately illustrate these topics. Naturally, adding color plates would increase the cost of the book, but it would be worthwhile for that chapter at least. From an editorial point of view, there were a few entries in the index that did not correspond to the text. This oversight makes the index somewhat less useful. Overall, the rest of the editing appeared very professional.

In conclusion, the fourth edition of **Bove and Davis' Diving Medicine** builds on a great diving medicine text. It is suitable for a broad range of readers, and is a worthy

addition to the library of any clinician who has an interest in diving medicine and diving-related disorders.

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AccessMedicine.com (<http://books.mcgraw-hill.com/accessmedicine>)

AccessMedicine.com (<http://books.mcgraw-hill.com/accessmedicine>) is a Web site that, for a price, provides a great deal of reference material and other useful services. It was developed by publisher McGraw-Hill and seeks to be a nearly comprehensive reference of textbook-like information.

The site's greatest focus is on internal medicine. Subscribers have access to (1) Harrison's Online, a version of the venerated *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine*, a general medicine text, (2) Hurst's *The Heart*, one of several respected cardiovascular medicine texts, (3) *The Metabolic and Molecular Bases of Inherited Disease*, (4) AccessLANGE, the online version of a collection of Lange handbooks of medical basic science (eg, biochemistry, physiology) and clinical (eg, pediatrics, urology) topics taught to physicians in training, (4) *Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment*, a topic-arranged collection of chapters that cut across all medical disciplines (eg, breast, ear-nose-throat, poisoning, medical genetics), (5) *Harrison's On Hand*, an internal medicine text formatted for download to a handheld computer such as a Palm, and (6)

Clinical Pharmacology, a drug reference similar to Micromedex.

There are 2 search engines on **AccessMedicine.com**. The search engine for *Clinical Pharmacology* allows you to type the name of a drug (generic or proprietary), but you have to spell it correctly and completely or it will yield no result. The drug search function is useful; it provides a comprehensive list of dosages, forms, and photographs of the drug's appearance. For a drug that I checked there were recently updated entries for adjustment for renal insufficiency. In addition to how to dose for FDA-approved and unapproved indications and clinical pharmacology information, there is also approximate price information. These entries are written and revised by pharmacists, they seem accurate and up to date, and they are very easy to access.

The second search engine allows the user to search the entire site ("Search AccessMedicine") or to search individually any of the first 4 reference works listed above. The search is prompt and gives direct links to the topic. Searching topics this way provides a wide choice of answers—the more detailed physiologic explanations of Harrison's and the practical, abbreviated information of the Lange series handbooks. However, if you seek detailed explanations and "how to" advice rather than short summaries, I've found *UpToDate* (another online, subscription-based, clinical information resource) to be more easily understood than the latter material.

AccessMedicine.com is not cheap. The price for 1 year of *Harrison's Online* for an individual user is \$125. The annual price for the Lange *Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment* clinical handbook series is \$150. A comprehensive subscription to the entire **AccessMedicine.com** package is

\$19,000 for up to 5 users and available to institutions only. In comparison, the cost for a year of *UpToDate* for a single subscriber is \$495, with a renewal cost of \$395. A stand-alone workstation annual subscription for *UpToDate* costs \$1,495 (plus shipping!). A license for a site is not quoted online—you must call, probably best done sitting down.

As one who finds reading extensive material easier in print rather than in online form, I found **AccessMedicine.com** to be easy to navigate and prompt to provide answers. If you misspell a complicated drug name, you're in trouble: typing two-thirds of it won't get you anywhere. The presentation is easy to figure out and read, although some "chapters" (they are quite abbreviated) are truncated mid-page and require you to page down, which entails delay while a new page is loaded. I will not subscribe, because I can find the information for the features most valuable to me (*Harrison's Online* and *Clinical Pharmacology*) in other ways. *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine* or the *Cecil-Loeb Textbook of Medicine* can be found in most medical libraries, even small ones, and this basic material doesn't change very often. I can find information on any drug product (albeit not the cost) by trying to spell it at Google.com or on my hospital's paid-for Micromedex site. However, organizations seeking a good general on-line reference who don't want to purchase the book could consider *Harrison's Online* (<http://harrison-s.accessmedicine.com>).

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