

Institute of Pathology in Washington DC. As expected, this text reflects their extensive knowledge and experience in the subject matter. The content is comprehensive and rigorous. The case material is excellent. I highly recommended the **Teaching Atlas of Chest Imaging** as a valuable addition to departmental and personal libraries of all those who share an interest in chest disease.

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Functional Lung Imaging. David A Lipson MD and Edwin JR van Beek MD PhD FRCR, editors. (*Lung Biology in Health and Disease*, volume 200, Claude Lenfant, executive editor.) Boca Raton, Florida: Taylor & Francis. 2005. Hard cover, illustrated, 635 pages, \$199.95.

This small-format hard-cover book is from a series of books entitled *Lung Biology in Health and Disease*. This textbook is number 200 from a collection of 208 topics in this valuable series. This textbook contains 28 well-referenced chapters, written by 50 contributors, with a total length of 635 pages, which includes a 14 page index. The book is made with very nice paper stock, and the numerous images, though rather small, are of high quality.

The book describes the physiologic basis of functional lung imaging, which is, by its very nature, a multidisciplinary field, involving radiologists, bioengineers, physicists, pulmonary medicine physicians, and surgeons. The book's stated goal is to describe the state of the art in the field of functional pulmonary imaging. The editors invited internationally renowned authors who are leaders in the fields of computed tomography, magnetic resonance in nuclear medicine, pulmonary medicine, and thoracic surgery.

As is often the case when such a varied collection of contributors is brought together for a focused textbook project such as this, the burden of contextual flow falls upon the lead editors of the book. This book is divided into 5 parts, starting with an introduction, followed by sections on computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, nuclear medicine, and clinical imaging. In this last part the editors bring together the elements of the prior parts of the book and translate them from the research arena to the clinical arena. The editors had mixed success in this regard, in terms of content flow and organization. For example, the chapter on the solitary pulmonary nodule, most of which is a general imaging review of the topic, contains very little functional information, other than a single paragraph on computed tomography and magnetic resonance nodular enhancement. The following chapter, which is a short review of imaging cystic fibrosis, also has very little on

the functional imaging nature of this disease. Similarly, several other of the clinical chapters seem to squeeze in brief amounts of information on functional imaging, almost as an afterthought rather than a primary emphasis.

The editors made a gallant effort to cover this field in its entirety, based on the state of the art at the time of the book's compilation. Some of the information will probably be new and interesting to readers who have a special interest in functional lung imaging, but much of it will be very familiar. In the end, this book, which tries to appeal to a very wide audience, and as such tries to be all things to all people, falls somewhat short of the mark. Although the overall topic seems quite focused, in the end it is a rather broad, multidisciplinary field, with a broad range of potential readers, few of whom will have the interest to read the book in its entirety, written by a select group of authors, each with a very narrow perspective. The individual chapters tend to be either too brief and broad, or too detailed and focused. Unfortunately, state-of-the-art books such as this frequently become outdated in the time interval between writing and publishing.

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