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Diagnostic Pulmonary Pathology, 2nd edition. Philip T Cagle, Timothy C Allen, and Mary Beth Beasley, editors. *Lung Biology in Health and Disease* series. Claude Lenfant, series editor. Volume 226. New York: Informa Healthcare. 2008. Hard cover, 791 pages, illustrated, \$249.95.

This volume is part of the well known series *Lung Biology in Health and Disease*, edited by Lenfant. In this book, in its second edition, most chapters were written by authors who are not the editors; therefore, the style and format of each chapter varies. Some chapters are more readable than others, but most chapters are up to date; they include the most recent classifications and cover the most important aspects of each topic. In contrast to most pathology textbooks, this volume is organized on how the patient should be approached, and covers the most common and some uncommon neoplastic and non-neoplastic pulmonary diseases. Although the senior editors of the book are pathologists, the contributing authors include surgeons, clinicians, and radiologists, and this is reflected in the multidisciplinary approach provided to the reader.

The first chapter discusses transbronchial biopsies and is written by a clinician who gives a concise but excellent discussion on risks and benefits of the procedure, issues related to the immunocompromised patient, the likelihood of successful sampling and positive diagnosis, and briefly mentions novel techniques, including endobronchial ultrasound and electromagnetic navigation diagnostic bronchoscopy. The second chapter is written by pathologists (including the senior editor) and is a good review of pathology findings in endobronchial and transbronchial biopsies. A table discussing histologic artifacts will be very useful to the practicing pathologist.

There is only one chapter on pediatric lung disease. It gives a good overview of the pathology of pediatric diseases, including rare and recently described entities, but

it does not go into details of genetics and metabolic diseases.

Topics related to interstitial fibrosis have been divided into 2 chapters: "Predominantly Mature Interstitial Fibrosis" and "Predominantly Immature Interstitial Fibrosis." This is an unorthodox way to discuss and classify these groups of diseases, but it works and is probably going to be useful to the student of these subjects.

The clinical chapters are clear, interesting, and useful, and many include tables and algorithms. The chapter on clinical and radiologic diagnosis of interstitial infiltrates is outstanding and provides a comprehensive review of interstitial lung diseases.

Although there are several excellent pulmonary pathology books, this volume provides an interesting organization that will be useful to the practicing pathologist, such as a chapter on diagnostic approach to the patient with necrosis on lung biopsy. In the chapters on neoplastic diseases the authors did an outstanding job of explaining the specialized radiological features of these tumors and correlating them so well with gross surgically excised specimens. The section on pleural pathology discusses issues that are controversial and difficult to the practicing surgical pathologist, and provide good guidelines for the diagnosis of these lesions, which sometimes is extremely difficult.

The material is well organized and the editors did a great job in terms of selection of topics and authors. Throughout the text, the photographs are good, but, unfortunately, as is the rule in this series, all the illustrations are black-and-white, including the photomicrographs, which are small. Radiologists and pathologists who are interested in detailed, high-resolution, color illustrations should refer to atlases and textbooks on the subject (in fact, some of them edited by the same editors of this volume).

This book provides a thorough review of pulmonary diseases that covers clinical aspects, radiology, and pathology. The references are up to 2008. The table of contents is well organized, and a comprehensive alphabetical index is also provided.

I am old enough to remember the days when *Spencer's Pathology of the Lung* was the only pulmonary pathology book. In 2009 the reader interested in these topics can choose from a large number of books, comprehensive texts, and atlases on these topics; nevertheless, this volume provides information and details that are unique.

Some of my junior colleagues and trainees prefer to learn from a CD, DVD, and online information that accompanies many textbooks nowadays; this book is not accompanied by a CD or online material, but it provides an excellent source of information.

The editors state in the preface that they present the "histopathological or clinical findings as they actually occur in clinical practice." I think they achieved their goal and provide the specialist with practical information on natural history and diagnosis of lung diseases.

In summary, this volume is a valuable reference textbook for clinicians and pathologists, although perhaps of limited value for therapists and technicians, since the predominant objective of the book is to provide clues for histopathologic diagnosis of lung diseases.

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Interpretation of Pulmonary Function Tests: A Practical Guide, 3rd edition. Robert E Hyatt MD, Paul D Scanlon MD, and Masao Nakamura MD. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer Health/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 2008. Soft cover, illustrated, 272 pages, \$69.95.

Textbooks such as *West's Respiratory Physiology*, from which many clinicians in training learn, describe the mechanisms by which air is inhaled and exhaled and gas is transferred in the lungs and peripheral tissues. This approach emphasizes the complexities of the respiratory system rather than the simplicity of the task it accomplishes. Pulmonary function tests (PFTs) are mentioned, but only as demonstrations of the underlying respiratory physiology. Other board-review-type texts present pulmonary physiology and pathophysiology information in mostly table form, without an explanation of why (for example, *why do obstructive lung diseases have an abnormally low FEV₁/FVC ratio?*). Hyatt, Scanlon, and Nakamura's text, **Interpretation of Pulmonary Function Tests: A Practical Guide**, attempts to place itself between the pure physiologic platform of *West's* text and the less mechanistic board-review-type books.

The authors propose that the under-utilization of pulmonary function testing in mod-