ment in both psychological and physical symptoms, pointing to a need for more research.

Other individual psychological issues discussed include health behaviors, in particular, symptom perception, as discussed by Rietveld, and adherence to treatment regimens, discussed by Tousman and Zeitz. Rietveld discusses the evolution of symptom perception from a learning and cognitive basis, utilizing the arousal theory of emotion. He notes that experiences of physical sensations such as physiologic arousal can be interpreted as symptoms, depending on the situational context. He examines support of why both conscious and unconscious processes are at work in that evolution, which helps to explain disconnection between a patient’s symptom perception and objective measures of airway compromise. Tousman and Zeitz continue a similar discussion, focusing more on a model of readiness to change behaviors that are known to affect asthma outcome (eg, agreeing to take prophylactic anti-inflammatory medications as opposed to using only symptomatic relief). They discuss how knowledge is necessary but not sufficient for change, and how a patient’s personality characteristics need to be taken into account in developing a behavior-change intervention. Schmaling et al continue that discussion by adding new information on new methods of assessing adherence, as well as bringing in some aspects from the last quadrant of Gregerson’s model—that of external social influences. They discuss cultural and economic factors that affect adherence.

In a more comprehensive model, Miller and Wood present an approach to understanding how stress and family dynamics may play a role in the exacerbation of childhood asthma. Their model integrates a physiologic vulnerability (ie, an autonomic nervous system dysregulation with a cholinergic bias) within a social structure (family system) that can exacerbate or ameliorate asthma symptoms via emotional regulation of the system. It is a model of the mechanisms by which emotions influence airway reactivity in asthma, and integrates many of the quadrants of Gregerson’s model. The model helps explain why working with a child’s family may be the best way to improve asthma outcomes for certain children.

Finally, Hukovic and Brown remind us that the medications currently used to treat asthma, in particular the corticosteroids, may have important effects on mood and memory in some patients, although the overall effects on population samples are not large. They discuss treatment options for adverse effects on mood and memory.

Overall, I recommend this book to all practitioners who treat patients with asthma, as well as to clinicians and researchers interested in models of mind/body interactions. Asthma is an illness that can teach us all something, and hopefully by understanding this broader context of the illness we can provide better care to those who suffer from it.


This book was written to encourage behavioral scientists to undertake research on behavioral and medical aspects of respiratory disease, although it also has value for clinicians who work or conduct research with behavioral scientists. The authors note that papers on respiratory disorders are published primarily in medical journals, rarely appearing in journals of psychology or behavior. To increase interest in that subject they have written an interesting, comprehensive, and very useful book.

In Chapter 1, Kaptein provides a comprehensive overview of the contributions of behavior research in asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), covering the role of learning theory in developing techniques to help patients and reviewing the associations between psychosocial factors, disease, and disease management.

Chapter 2, by Gergen and Mitchell, is an excellent review of the epidemiology of asthma, which is essential material for behavior scientists, who are likely to be unfamiliar with the major asthma risk factors. Similarly, Chapter 11, by Creer and Winder, provides an excellent summary of the medical treatment of asthma, tuberculosis, and COPD. Unfortunately, the chapter contains an important error: although the prevalence of asthma is higher in black children than in whites, the average ratio is approximately 1.25 to 1, not 2.5 to 1.

The aim of Chapter 3, by Kinnert and Bender, is to define circumstances when psychological assessment and treatment is needed for children who have asthma. The authors note that children who have asthma have the same psychological profile as other children, but those with psychological problems tend to have greater asthma severity and management problems. They present a psychological assessment tool that they developed, and this chapter should be very helpful for clinical psychologists treating asthmatic children who are having behavioral or family problems.

Chapter 4, by Kaplan and Ries, explores the behavioral assessment and treatment of COPD, which affects adults. The chapter reviews one of the major successes of the field: behavioral intervention studies that demonstrated that pulmonary rehabilitation programs could be successful if they combined education, exercise training, and cognitive restructuring. They also review evidence that quality of life, social support, and self-efficacy are associated with survival. An excellent closing section defines unsolved problems and new areas for research.

In Chapter 5, Rietveld and Everaerd review research on symptom perception in asthma. The chapter focuses on the ability of people with airway obstruction to assess their own degree of breathlessness. They review 3 types of research: signal-detection experiments, parallel measures of breathlessness and lung function, and comparison of lung function measured by objective tests and by self-report. One important conclusion of that research is that it is difficult for patients to accurately assess their degree of airway obstruction. This is a problem that has received much attention and has been a fascinating challenge for behavioral scientists and medical researchers. The authors, however, do not review any of the research on perceiving and reacting to other symptoms of asthma that are easier to observe, such as wheeze and persistent cough. Nor do they review studies of other patient-initiated methods of measuring airway obstruction, such as peak flow monitoring. There is a substantial body of research on those subjects, which provides important information for clinicians and researchers trying to help
patients detect and control airway obstruction.

In Chapter 6, Mesters, Creer, and Gerards address self-management of respiratory disorders, contrasting the health counseling and self-management perspectives. An important strength of the chapter is that it describes all of the key concepts and steps of the process of patients learning to manage their illness under the guidance of clinicians and health educators and counselors, including the need for some degree of patient autonomy in care, the barriers that must be overcome, and the key learning processes involved. The chapter is, however, confusing in several ways. The health counseling and self-management models are presented as contrasting alternatives, even though the authors acknowledge that there is substantial overlap in both theory and actual programs developed for patients. The effort to distinguish the 2 approaches results in statements about self-management programs that I (as a developer of self-management programs that incorporate health counseling strategies) found it hard to recognize or agree with.

For example, the authors argue that once self-management training is complete, “the patient alone takes over the management of his disorder.” I know of no self-management program that operates that way; rather, there is usually a strong emphasis on teaching patients to develop close, ongoing partnerships with clinicians, so they can work together to best manage the disease. In a similar vein, the authors say that an “overlooked aspect of self-management is that goal selection is the only activity in which there is true collaboration between patients and health counselors.” That simply doesn’t reflect reality; for example, Creer’s asthma self-management program, Living with Asthma, provides opportunities for children and their families to collaborate with health educators to find the best mix of self-management strategies for their home environment. Another limitation of the chapter is that it does not cite original references for the great majority of studies of the effectiveness of asthma self-management programs.

Chapter 7, by Bender and Milgrom, reviews the neuropsychological and psychiatric adverse effects of medicines used to treat asthma and allergic rhinitis. They report their studies of adverse effects of theophylline, β agonists, inhaled and oral corticosteroids, and several other classes of drugs. This excellent chapter shows the potential for controlled studies to successfully resolve patient and clinician concerns about anecdotally reported adverse effects.

In Chapter 8, Levstek-Caplin provides a clear, comprehensive review of compliance research in respiratory disorders. She reviews controversies in the definition of compliance, methods of measuring compliance, the major areas of compliance (e.g., medications, activity restrictions, medical appointments), and factors that affect compliance. She also reviews studies of physician compliance, an issue that is only now receiving the attention it deserves.

Chapter 9, by Hyland, provides an excellent analysis of research on respiratory disease’s effects on quality of life. Hyland’s model of quality of life is based on the distinction between the problems patients experience and their evaluation of those problems. He identifies 5 types of burden patients must deal with, and he provides a fascinating analysis of interactions and tradeoffs patients must make between those burdens and quality of life. He reviews the major quality-of-life scales used with asthma patients and provides an interesting analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the various methods of measuring quality of life.

In Chapter 10, Gustafson and Bonner provide a biopsychosocial perspective on cystic fibrosis. This excellent chapter provides a good grounding in the physiology and natural history of the disorder and reviews the abundant research on child and parent adjustment to the great burdens cystic fibrosis places on the family. They note the surprising lack of interventions to improve self-management and adjustment, and they provide a good review of the one effective program to improve self-management and adjustment.

Chapter 12, by Reynolds, reviews research on smoking cessation for patients with COPD. As in cystic fibrosis, there is plenty of research on the effects of smoking prevention and smoking cessation on the development of COPD, but only 5 studies have tested interventions to help smokers with COPD to quit. COPD patients are highly resistant to smoking-cessation efforts, and Reynolds provides good suggestions for further research.

The final 2 chapters address the directions that behavioral research on respiratory disorders should take. In Chapter 13, Hindi-Alexander, Fritz, and Creer propose a model of therapeutic behavior analysis that involves setting goals, determining specific skills required to achieve goals, assessing needed and available resources, matching skills to resources, and tailoring an action plan. The authors show how this model has been successfully applied to asthma, COPD, and cystic fibrosis, and they offer an excellent critique of how efforts to control tuberculosis and smoking worldwide have not made use of behavioral approaches. They argue that directly observed therapy fails to engage the patient in preventing transmission of tuberculosis, which, they point out, is essential for tuberculosis control in developing countries.

Chapter 14, by Creer, covers a lot of ground. The chapter begins with a fascinating history of how an early success with behavioral treatments that reduced excessive hospitalizations with 2 children convinced physicians that behavioral scientists really had something to offer. He continues with an analysis of the paternalistic, informed, and shared models of care, and provides an excellent discussion of the challenges of implementing the shared and mixed models. The chapter then shifts to an interesting discussion of the complexity of human behavior, and argues that studies with predetermined hypotheses and measurements often miss the complexity of behaviors that can best be described using the idea of open, complex systems. He illustrates this with numerous sequences of behaviors that are usually predictable but are sometimes reversed because of the complexities of the patient’s situation. Unfortunately, one of his examples involves a misunderstanding of the pathophysiology of asthma. Creer writes, “the combined regimen of controller drugs seems to blunt the signs of an asthma exacerbation.” Controllers don’t blunt or conceal asthma exacerbations; they truly prevent them. Creer argues for methods of appreciating the full complexity of the patient’s world as the best basis for good behavioral research, and I can’t think of better advice for someone entering the field.

Overall, this book achieves its aim of providing a useful introduction to behavioral research in respiratory disorders for an audience of behavioral scientists. Many of the chapters provide informed suggestions for future research. A consistent theme throughout is that, with the exception of asthma and COPD, behavioral scientists have done plenty of research on psychosocial factors that affect respiratory health, but
far too little work on developing and testing interventions to help people prevent or manage disease.

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Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome.

This book is an invaluable resource for pulmonologists and critical care clinicians seeking a technical and comprehensive review of the acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). The book’s editor, Michael Matthay, is a leading authority on the topic and has successfully assembled an eclectic compilation of work from both well-established academicians and up-and-coming contributors to the field. Overall, I found this to be a well-balanced review of both basic scientific and clinical research on the syndrome, providing relevant information for academic physicians and private clinicians alike. Although I do not think this text is highly geared toward the practicing nurse or respiratory therapist, the chapters on diagnosis, therapy, and ventilator management could make this a valuable reference text for any practicing clinician.

In all, there are 23 well-chosen and logically arranged chapters, the first of which defines ARDS and its relevant risk factors, followed by chapters that describe the epidemiologic, radiographic, and pathologic features of the syndrome. The next series of chapters summarize the numerous biologic signaling cascades involved in the pathogenesis of ARDS and ventilator-induced lung injury. These are followed by a set of chapters that examine recent genetic studies that suggest inheritable risks for the syndrome. The text then moves on to a series of clinically relevant chapters on treatment of sepsis-related ARDS and potential interventions, such as modulation of vascular tone, glucocorticoid therapy, surfactant therapy, and prone positioning. This is followed by a comprehensive summary of approaches to mechanical ventilation of patients with ARDS and a brief but important summary of the recently described viral illness, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

Finally, there is a brief concluding chapter (by the editor) on promising new directions in the field. Although there is some redundancy and overlap in content, the chapters are well organized and do not seem to suffer from the fractured arrangement often characteristic of multiple-author texts.

Although I found most of the chapters informative and comprehensively referenced, some were more memorable for their educational appeal. For instance, the chapter that defines ARDS and acute lung injury (ALI) is a well-organized summary that illustrates the complexities of defining and classifying such a heterogeneous disorder without confusing the reader. This chapter concludes with a clear and concise summary of the syndrome’s risk factors for morbidity and mortality.

The 2 chapters on the pathogenesis of ALI were wisely organized as separate summaries of laboratory-based animal experiments and clinical studies. Both chapters are comprehensive yet easily readable synopses of research on the roles of neutrophils, cytokines, and oxidant and procoagulant pathways in the development of ARDS. The chapter that summarizes the pathogenesis of ventilator-induced lung injury was a wise inclusion by the editor; it illustrates the important continuum between ALI and the effects of the mechanical ventilation, which is both an essential life-saving measure in the management of ALI and, paradoxically, a contributor to ALI/ARDS morbidity and mortality. This is yet another comprehensive summary of past and present research into the potential mechanisms of injury from mechanical ventilation, covering both its direct effects on the lung and its indirect effect on mortality through its contribution to multi-organ dysfunction.

I was pleasantly surprised by how much I learned from the chapter on the heat shock response pathways in ALI. The authors nicely outline the objectives of the chapter and fulfill them, making a complex topic more easily understood by the novice microbiologist. Although the chapter on fibroproliferation in ALI is an essential inclusion and is exhaustively referenced (197 references), I found it a bit difficult to follow. I found subsequent chapters, however, on alveolar fluid clearance, modulation of pulmonary vascular tone, glucocorticoid and surfactant therapy, and prone-positioning to all be well referenced and easily readable. The chapter on management of mechanical ventilation is an especially well referenced and organized summary of conventional (low tidal volume, noninvasive) and less conventional (high-frequency, inverse ratio, pressure-release) modes of mechanical ventilation, as well as influential research findings in the field.

In all, I found this book fairly easy to read cover-to-cover, but for most readers this will more likely provide a valuable reference source for chapters outlining the seminal studies in their respective fields. The book expanded both my general knowledge of ARDS and my reference library for future academic efforts. I strongly encourage anyone pursuing an academic career in pulmonary or critical care medicine to purchase this text, but I would equally encourage full-time clinicians to consider this text if they plan to manage patients with ALI and ARDS.

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Non-Neoplastic Advanced Lung Disease.

Reviewing the complex topic of advanced non-neoplastic lung disease, its pathophysiology, clinical manifestations, and management approaches is a difficult assignment, but Non-Neoplastic Advanced Lung Disease (the 176th volume in the Lung Biology in Health and Disease series), edited by Janet Maurer, has accomplished the task; it is a thorough and systematic review.

The first 3 chapters review the pathology of obstructive airway diseases, interstitial disorders, and pulmonary vascular diseases. The macroscopic and microscopic features of these diseases are described, and their respective clinical correlations are reviewed. These chapters include representative photographs of parenchymal and airway specimens as well as photomicrographs that illustrate the histologic features of the conditions.