

Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma. Kenneth O'Byrne and Valerie Rusch, editors. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2007. Hard cover, illustrated, 646 pages, \$198.50.

With the increasing incidence of diffuse malignant mesothelioma on a global basis, there have appeared monographs in the past few years devoted solely to this tumor, and this book is one of the best. The editors selected 59 authors from around the world, in a truly global approach to the problem, and from multiple disciplines, including epidemiology, molecular medicine, pathology, radiology, surgery, and oncology.

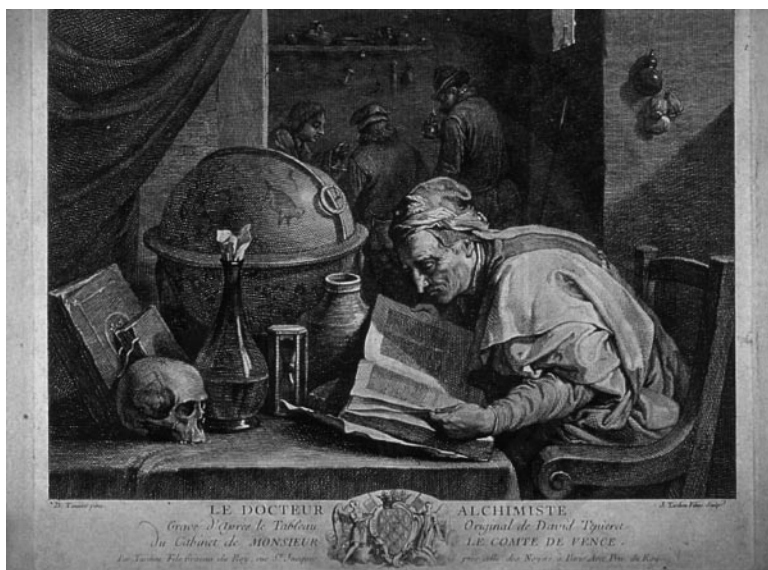
The book will appeal to anyone concerned with this asbestos-related disease, and it includes new information, particularly about the geographical distribution of the disease, molecular mechanisms of the disease, clinical staging, and the most current roles for chemotherapies and surgeries. In a book with many authors, there is almost inevitably some overlap in coverage, but it would be difficult to find more lucid summaries of some of these topics, including the role of vascularization and immunobiology in this tumor. The writing is for the most part clear and in a style that will be understandable across disciplines.

Anybody dealing with diffuse malignant mesothelioma, in either a research or clinical

setting, should learn a great deal from this book in topics outside his or her own immediate specializations. As this clinically relentless disease continues to increase but has proven so refractory to therapy, any additional knowledge is welcome indeed, and this book is also welcome indeed.

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The author of this review reports no conflict of interest.



Le Docteur Alchimiste
 Engraving by J. Fillius Tardieu
 after a painting by David Teniers, 1736?
 Courtesy, National Library of Medicine