
The editors dedicated this book to “interventional pulmonologists throughout the world-past, present and future.” According to the European Respiratory Society and American Thoracic Society, the interventional pulmonology subspecialty encompasses “the art and science of medicine as related to the performance of diagnostic and invasive therapeutic procedures that require additional training and expertise beyond that required in a standard pulmonary medicine training program.” These procedures include bronchoscopic and pleural techniques used to diagnose and treat a spectrum of thoracic disorders. Interventional pulmonologists might encounter patients with a variety of clinical disorders causing dyspnea, cough, hemoptysis, wheezing, stridor, or respiratory insufficiency. Patients may have manifestations of connective-tissue disease, primary lung cancer, or symptoms related to other neoplastic disorders, trauma and burn injury, foreign-body inhalation, iatrogenic disease, and perioperative complications.

From this perspective, the authors of Interventional Pulmonary Medicine accomplished their goal of thoroughly covering the topic. They do that from a procedure-centric rather than a patient-centric point of view. While the intended readership is composed of physicians specializing in airway or pleural procedures, in this field, like in sports or business, one is only as good as one’s team. For that reason, certain aspects of the book (eg, the chapter on sedation, analgesia, and anesthesia for airway procedures) will be particularly useful to therapists and nurses.

Most comprehensive textbooks on interventional pulmonology are more than 3 to 10 years old. In a field where technology and understanding of disease processes has advanced substantially within the last 5 years, there is a need for an updated text-book and thus the publication of this book is timely.

This multi-author text is volume 230 of the Lung Biology in Health and Disease series, with Lenfant as executive editor. Divided into 16 chapters, this hard-cover book is written by 27 different experts. The lack of cohesion among chapters is noticeable despite the editors’ effort to implement a rigid structure. The book uses a procedure-based rather than disease-specific table of contents and is not presented in a case-based format.

The opening chapter provides a review and an update on rigid bronchoscopy instruments and has a different structure from the subsequent chapters. Some chapters address only one intervention (eg, airway stents), while others include 3 or 4 procedures more or less related to each other (eg, laser bronchoscopy, electro surgery, argon plasma coagulation, and micro-debrider). Certain procedure-related sections include the following headings: history, scientific basis, technical aspects, indications and complications, while others include a different format: introduction, background, literature, limitations, and conclusions.

The book does examine the full spectrum of the available interventional pulmonology procedures, including therapeutic bronchoscopy, advanced diagnostic bronchoscopy, and medical thoracoscopy, and several related procedures. The book is slim, compared with the previous edition from 2004 (257 versus 689 pages). While many chapters from the previous edition have been removed, in its current format this book is more readable and its size may allow one to fit it in a large pocket of a medical coat. The most original contributions to this volume are the chapters on bronchoscopic treatment of asthma and COPD. These are new and important additions, given the prevalence and the global burden of these disorders. In a more concise manner, compared with the previous edition, the book addresses novel optical and acoustic technologies for early diagnosis and staging of lung cancer. Guidelines for training in interventional pulmonology are addressed in a chapter on education. The “Advanced Bronchoscopic Techniques for Diagnosis of Peripheral Pulmonary Lesions” and “Bronchoscopic Treatment of Peripheral Pulmonary Nodules” chapters are also new additions and presented in an original format. They address recent advances and novel concepts in minimally invasive bronchoscopic interventions such as ultrathin bronchoscopy, electromagnetic navigation, endobronchial ultrasound as well as the bronchoscopic placement of markers to assist surgical resection or radiation therapy for pulmonary nodules, intratumoral injection of chemotherapeutic agents, and bronchoscopic-guided radiofrequency ablation.

Throughout the chapters, there are useful tables summarizing biological effects of laser applications, differential diagnosis of central airway obstruction, indications and complications of various endobronchial therapies, and diagnostic yields of medical thoracoscopy for pleural effusions, to mention just a few. At the conclusion of each chapter there is an up-to-date list of references. In fact, virtually all chapters are well referenced and function as evidence-based reviews.

The pictures differ in quality and they are all in black-and-white. While this format may be adequate when the authors illustrate various instruments used in interventional pulmonology, it is not useful for understanding many bronchoscopic and thoracic images presented. Given the relatively small size of the book, many bronchoscopic pictures are very small, which further limits interpretation. For those wishing to quickly review a particular procedure or technology, a comprehensive index is included. For those interested in a particular disease entity it would have been beneficial to incorporate more disease-specific terms in the index.

This is a great book for the busy healthcare providers who desire a concise answer to an interventional pulmonary procedure-related question. On a personal note, I will continue to use electronic databases and reference materials as the main resource for my clinical and research activities. I have already used this book, however, and I will continue to use it as a resource of well ref-
ersenced reviews of interventional pulmonary procedures.

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The author has disclosed no conflicts of interest.


When I received the invitation to review this book, I noticed that it was written by Thomas Lang. He coauthored, with Michelle Secic, an earlier book that I admire, “How to Report Statistics in Medicine” (first edition 1997, second edition 2006), which was also published by the ACP [American College of Physicians] Press. I use that book as a reference myself and cite it as a resource for others. So I jumped at the chance to read another book by him, and this new book exceeded my expectations.

Given the new book’s title, it is not surprising that most chapter headings start with “How to” (eg, how to write effectively; how to write efficiently; how to display data in tables and graphs; how to write an abstract; how to write a proposal; how to write a journal article reporting original research; how to prepare drawings and photographs for publication; how to document biomedical images for publication; how to publish in a scientific journal; how to prepare and present a scientific poster; and how to prepare and present slides). The book also includes an overview of writing and publishing in the health sciences and a chapter on ethics in research and publishing.

Only one chapter overlaps between the old and new books. In this more recent book Lang gives a paragraph-by-paragraph description of how to write a report of original research, but refers to his earlier book for similar descriptions of “randomized controlled trials, cohort and longitudinal studies, case-control studies, surveys and cross-sectional studies, systematic reviews and meta-analyses, diagnostic test characteris-