

nate in that much of the content will be out of date within a few years.

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Pulmonary Physiology, 7th edition. Michael G Levitzky PhD. *Lange Physiology* series. New York: McGraw Hill. 2007. Soft cover, illustrated, 280 pages, \$34.95.

In the preface to this 7th edition of **Pulmonary Physiology**, Levitzky states that the current edition of this book “has been thoroughly updated and new references and figures have been added.” Further, the book is intended both as an introductory text for beginning students of pulmonary physiology and a review for residents and fellows in internal medicine, anesthesiology, pediatrics, and pulmonary medicine. New features include a section at the end of each chapter entitled “Clinical Problems” that consists of 2–12 questions, in several different question formats, to test the reader’s knowledge application to a clinical situation.

The text is laid out into 11 chapters that cover topics that are very standard to most pulmonary physiology textbooks. The only unusual chapter not often found in this type of text is Chapter 10 “Nonrespiratory Functions of the Lung.” Each chapter starts with a list of objectives for that chapter. I suspect that most readers will find this to be very useful for study. For those of us who teach these topics, these objectives will serve as

an outline of the material to be covered. With a 2-color format, the author divides each chapter into short sections that are a page or less each—a more digestible format. Nearly every page has a figure, table, or formula to break up the text; this is especially nice for those of us with attention deficits.

At several points in each chapter there is an icon of a magnifying glass with a number. These icons are then collated at the end of each chapter, under a section labeled “Key Concepts.” The concept denoted by the icon in the text is then restated in a single sentence. This is great feature for study and concept reinforcement. Then comes the clinical problems (questions), and, finally, a suggested reading reference list that ranges from very extensive to a bare minimum of references. The references include textbooks, reviews, and a scant number of original articles; there are, however, new references (since 2003) in each chapter.

At the end of the book there are 3 sections. First is a set of answers for the chapters’ questions, with the exception of Chapter 1, which did not include questions. Next is a section labeled “Appendix” that has symbols, chemistry laws, frequently used equations, a pulmonary function test decision tree, and a table of normal values (eg, dead space for a newborn, a 1-year-old, an 8-year-old, and an adult). Lastly there is the always-useful subject index.

The positive aspects of the book are the formats of the chapters, with objectives and subsections. The key-concept aspect will be a big hit with students. Teachers will enjoy the clinical questions, because we all struggle with finding good ideas for examination questions. The questions are practical and not as hard as in some similar textbooks

that I have used. The term “richly illustrated” comes to mind to describe all the illustrations found in this book. There are many new and unique illustrations in this textbook. I found many of the tables to be particularly helpful and well laid out. As examples, Table 10-2 lists mediators and other substances that are altered or not altered by passage through the lung, and Table 4-3 covers the factors that predispose to pulmonary edema.

Let’s consider one chapter in detail as an example. Chapter 2 covers the mechanics of breathing, a pet topic of mine but also a topic that is frequently very badly covered in similar texts, of which many come to mind. The chapter starts with a list of 11 learning objectives. There are 8 key concepts that summarize in a simple way the important take-home messages. There are 26 figures in this 42-page chapter. The figures differ greatly; some are directly drawn from other classic treatments of the topic, whereas other illustrations are well-executed and very clear. For example, Figure 2-2 is really nice, but others are crude and need more refinement. Indeed, this is one of my few complaints about the book.

In summary, this is an excellent textbook that covers the important topics of pulmonary physiology. I liked the book very much and think that it would be a useful addition to my library. I think that students and teacher alike will find it useful.

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