

can build their pulmonary physiology knowledge and physicians can review the underlying physiology of the diseases they see every day.

**Carrie D Chun MD**

Division of Pulmonary and  
Critical Care Medicine  
Department of Medicine  
University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington

The author reports no conflict of interest in the content of this book review.

**Pulmonary Imaging: Contributions to Key Clinical Questions.** Sujal R Desai MD FRCP FRCR, Tomás Franquet MD PhD, Thomas E Hartman MD, and Athol U Wells MD FRACP, editors. Boca Raton: Taylor & Francis/Informa Healthcare. 2007. Hard cover, illustrated, 181 pages, \$174.95.

**Pulmonary Imaging: Contributions to Key Clinical Questions** is one of the few textbooks in which 11 of the 15 chapters are written by a team consisting of a radiologist and a clinician, in an interactive format. The main aim of the book is to describe the value of various imaging modalities in certain clinical scenarios, not only to clinicians but also to the other members of the clinical team (physician assistants, respiratory therapists, and nurses).

In the last few decades there have been major advances in the way we image the chest. The change has been so rapid that even radiologists sometimes find it difficult to keep up with newer modalities. In such an atmosphere this book is a welcome aid to all the members of the clinical team, and will enable them to catch up with the advances and learn the way these newer modalities work, when to use them, and their strengths and weaknesses. The editors have taken care to address the utility in different

clinical settings, which fulfills their primary goal.

The book is divided into 3 sections. The first section is an introduction by a chest physician. It encourages the reader to pay closer attention to the evidence behind the use and utility of various modalities. The author explains using the example of high-resolution computed tomography (CT), a widely used modality.

The second section is further divided into 3 chapters, which ease the reader into the world of pulmonary imaging. Chapter 2 deals with basic principles of thoracic imaging and introduces the modalities in use today, and describes their clinical utility on a broad scale. Plain radiography, CT (including multidetector CT), magnetic resonance imaging, nuclear medicine, and other modalities are addressed. The author simplifies understanding of these modalities for non-radiologists and provides insight into their basic techniques and working principles. Chapter 3 describes pulmonary anatomy by imaging in a more comprehensive and easily understandable language. The appearance of different structures is shown with side-by-side images from various modalities, which I think will enhance readers' understanding. Post-processing images that enhance anatomic points are also used, rendering images close to real-life pictures. The last chapter in this section deals with basic radiologic patterns of lung disease as seen in day-to-day clinical radiology practice. Detailed differential diagnosis for each of the described radiologic signs is provided, which will simplify learning the basic radiological interpretation of pulmonary diseases via plain radiography and CT.

The final section addresses the commonly encountered clinical radiology settings. Each chapter gives in-depth analysis of one specific clinical situation from the point of view

of the evidence that guides the utility of imaging modalities. A common format is used, with situation-specific modifiers. This unique format consists of the clinician author posing common radiologic questions that arise in a particular clinical scenario, and responses by the radiologist author. The responses are based on sound evidence and add strength to the overall practical applicability of this book, which provides "one-stop shopping" for information for clinicians and radiologists alike. The more I read through this book, the more I am convinced that it would be of value both to the clinical team and radiologists.

The chapter on lung cancer has an excellent discussion of the status of and current thinking on lung cancer screening via low-dose CT, the work-up of a lung nodule, and the imaging modalities for staging. The chapter on diffuse lung diseases has depth that will exceed most readers' expectations. Modalities available, utility and accuracy of each modality, timing of surgical lung biopsy, interobserver variability, the accepted standards, quantification, prognostic information, and the role of monitoring disease progression are all addressed. The chapter on connective-tissue disorders elegantly combines clinical and radiologic analysis.

The only difficulty I had in reading this book was with the small size of the images, which obscured detail in some of them. Overall this is a well-written textbook, useful for beginners and veterans in medicine and radiology alike.

**Sudhakar NJ Pipavath MBBS**

Department of Radiology  
University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington

The author reports no conflict of interest in the content of this book review.