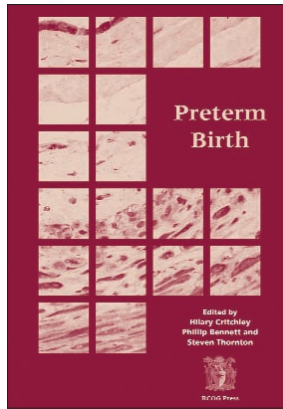


Preterm Birth

Edited by Hilary Critchley, Philip Bennett, Steven Thornton
RCOG Press 2004
Price £48.00. Pp 400
ISBN 1900364921

This book represents a fascinating and stimulating account of the forty-sixth Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Study Group meeting on preterm birth. It has gathered together so many aspects that impact on preterm birth and its subsequent morbidity and mortality.

The array of contributors is a testament to the thoroughness with which the editors have brought together expert opinion with the emphasis on objective analysis and clarity of interpretation.



Almost all advances in improving the outcome for preterm babies have been made in neonatal paediatric care rather than obstetrics. The author has rightly addressed the concern for important research in an area which provides a high level of morbidity and mortality. The introduction of the discussion at the end of each section is very useful and shows further insight into scientific, as well as the clinical, aspects of this ever-present problem.

It is the most up-to-date volume in the field and makes essential reading for both the generalist and the subspecialist.

Roy G Farquharson,
Liverpool Women's Hospital NHS Trust

A Colour Handbook in Renal Medicine.

James Pattison, David Goldsmith, Barrie Hartley, Fernando C Fervenza and Joseph P Grande.
Manson Publishing 2004
Price £29.95. Pp 240
ISBN 1 84076 035 4

This book is the kind of book you can just pick up and browse whenever you have a spare minute or two. Aimed at senior house officers and registrars in renal medicine, it is equally amenable to any hospital doctor.

As the preface states, this book demonstrates how dependent nephrology is on other specialities. Showing the multiply systemic effects of most renal diseases and end-stage renal failure.

The lay out is very logical, initially starting with clinical assessment of the renal patient then moving through each histopathological area of the kidney, touching on all the major disease processes. Pregnancy, acute renal failure, chronic renal failure, renal replacement therapy and transplantation are lightly touched on in the later chapters.

The presentation of each disease state is excellent. Each has one or two pages with concise text taking you through from definition to management, with excellent visual graphics to illustrate important points along the way. This book is easily read, getting across the salient features of each disease in a practical, clinical manner.

The only negative comment would be that there are no references; how-

ever, in the book's defence, detailed discussions and their validation are beyond the remit of this book and their inclusion might have compromised the meaning of 'handbook'.

In conclusion, this is an easily read, clinically relevant book which makes a valuable addition to a renal registrar's office.

*Dr Helen Campbell, Renal Registrar,
Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust*

Pulmonary Circulation: Diseases and their Treatment (2nd Edition)

Edited by Andrew J Peacock, Lewis J Rubin
Arnold 2004
Price £115.00. Pp 614
ISBN 0340807822

Pulmonary arterial hypertension is a rare and devastating condition. Recent advances in treatment, however, have revolutionized the practice of physicians involved in the care of patients with the condition. Thus, a second edition, 8 years after the first, is fully warranted.

The editors have chosen to allow each chapter to stand alone within a particular subject area. This allows the reader to dip into an area and rapidly gain some understanding, which is invaluable to the busy clinician. However, the format of the chapters concerning treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension – and given the numerous advances this is where many people will go to first – this format

does lead to a lot of repetition. In addition, the treatment algorithms in the various chapters do not always agree with each other, which could confuse the non-specialist.

This is a comprehensive text, covering many fields from the molecular mechanisms to the clinical manifestations of diseases that affect the pulmonary circulation, and should appeal to anyone with an interest in the pulmonary circulation. For such a specialized text it is very easy to read and the illustrations are of high quality. The advances in the understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying the pathophysiology of some forms of pulmonary arterial hypertension, including mutations in the gene-encoding bone morphogenetic protein and its receptors are particularly well written.

The management of pulmonary arterial hypertension is a fast-moving field, and with increasing data on the use of phosphodiesterase inhibitors, I am sure we shall not have to wait a further eight years for the third edition.

Matt Wright, Cardiology SpR at Hemel Hempstead DGH

