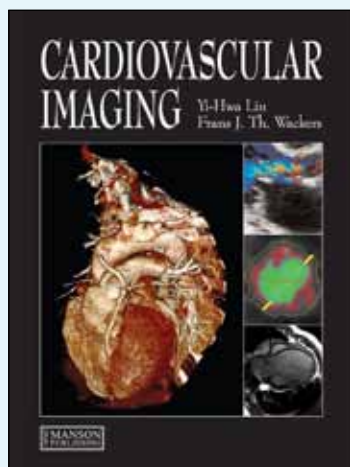


## Cardiovascular Imaging

Yi-Hwa Liu, Frans J Th Wackers  
Manson Publishing 2009  
Price £60.00. Pp 192  
ISBN 978 1 84076 109 2

Cardiac imaging has become an increasingly complex subspecialty, with a plethora of textbooks published to guide those clinicians who refer for non-invasive cardiac testing. Into this market emerges *Cardiovascular Imaging* by Liu and Wackers.

This relatively short textbook (192 pages) is divided into six chapters, with the first and last covering the basics and future of cardiovascular imaging respectively. The middle four chapters cover cardiac computed tomography, cardiac radionuclide imaging, echocardiography and cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging



respectively. Each chapter is well written and covers appropriate physical and clinical content that is suitably pitched for the inexperienced reader but unlikely to offer much to those already familiar. The evidence used to support each modality is up to date, although there is unfortunately little explicit relation of this evidence to current (admittedly ultrasound) imaging guidelines or appropriateness criteria.

Each imaging chapter is brought to a close by a selection of clinical cases. These sections should be a strong selling point for the book, but their success is mixed. The computed tomography and cardiovascular magnetic resonance cases are relatively trivial, while the echo cases cover the aortic valve and pericardial space only. In total, only

13 cases are devoted to these three modalities. In contrast, the 18 cases covering cardiac radionuclide imaging are particularly good, marred only by the fact that abnormalities are sometimes obscured by the arrows intended to indicate them. It is a shame that the other modalities were not afforded cases of similar breadth and quality.

Like most textbooks of this kind, prior familiarity with cardiac imaging modalities will determine the returns to be expected from this book. Overall, it is nicely written and provides a sound text for the inexperienced reader looking to expand his/her knowledge. However, those familiar with one or more of the modalities presented will find large portions of the book redundant. As such, the book is probably most appropriate for first year cardiology trainees and radiology trainees who have had little exposure to cardiac imaging.

*James Stirrup, Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust & National Heart and Lung Institute, London*

## Decision Making in Medicine – An Algorithmic Approach (3rd edn)

Stuart B Mushlin, Harry L Greene  
Mosby Elsevier 2009  
Price £58.99. Pp 726  
ISBN 978 0 323 04107 2

This book is, quite simply, a triumph. The authors (and over 150 co-authors) have managed to distill logic and evidence from the decision-making process, one which is often lacking in both. There are 17 chapters from behavioural medicine to urology, which deal individually with over 250 subjects ranging from bradycardia to vancomycin dosing. The beauty of the book is the way in which each topic has an algorithm on one page for brevity and clarity and on the opposing page the explanation with its necessary breadth and depth. This allows the reader to either follow the algorithm gracefully without interruption, read the text from start to finish or jump between the two.

It is both a book for reference at the workplace and also for interest at home. The only comment I would make is that is an American book, written for an American audience, hence uses unfamiliar

abbreviations, values and spelling. It also places greater emphasis on investigation than history and examination, and naturally some topics lend themselves better to an algorithm than others.

This book was intriguing, enjoyable to read and represents good value for money. I would recommend it to doctors in general, acute and emergency medicine, all candidates sitting the MRCP (especially Part 2 written), keen medical students and those involved with medical education, undergraduate or postgraduate.

*David Warriner, Barnsley Hospital, Barnsley*

## Medical Ethics and the Elderly (3rd edn)

Edited by Gurcharan S Rai  
Radcliffe 2009  
Price £22.99. Pp 172  
ISBN 9781846193071

This book is an excellent example of traditionally complex topics made both interesting and simple. It has certainly maintained the high standards of the previous editions. Most of the chapters have been updated to include the new relevant guidelines and legislation affecting the care of

older people. The new chapter dealing with issues around communication is well written and very relevant.

The winning point of the whole book is the simplicity and practicality that is evident in dealing with complex moral and ethical issues. Case histories have been well chosen and reflect the everyday dilemmas faced in the management of older people. The content is both instructive and thought-provoking. The chapters are concise and the discussions reflect the changing views and values of the present day society.

This book is relevant to all health-care professionals, but will be particularly useful for geriatricians, specialist trainees in geriatrics, junior doctors and GPs dealing with the care of older people. The various ethical and legal challenges faced regularly in caring for this group of the population have been more than adequately discussed and reviewed. It can serve both as a reference and as a source of practical guidance.

On the whole, this is a laudable effort, which is worthy of a place in one's reference collection.

*Anita Ayyar, Minerva Day Hospital, Bolton*