

Cystic Fibrosis (2nd edn)

Edited by ME Hodson, DM Geddes
Arnold 2001

Price £99.00. Pp 477

ISBN 0340742089

Cystic fibrosis (CF) has seen rapid advances in understanding of its pathophysiology and in new treatments. CF sufferers' life expectancy has improved, but CF still challenges scientists and clinicians and a cure remains elusive. Surely a textbook on such a rapidly changing, multisystem disorder will be out of date as soon as it is published?

It was with this concern that the second edition of *Cystic Fibrosis* was put to the test on a ward round. Three issues were raised: 'How do you best deliver enzymes with an overnight feed?', 'Does the flutter work?' and 'Are macrolide antibiotics useful in *Pseudomonas* infection?'

The first edition of *Cystic Fibrosis* was an authoritative collection of contributions comprehensively covering the many topics that encompass CF. It became an invaluable, well-referenced source of information. The second edition expands on this, with new chapters covering the relationship between phenotype and genotype, reproduction, sexual health and osteoporosis – all increasingly relevant as patients with CF live longer, healthier lives.

The basic science chapters have been updated, with useful reference lists for future reading. The editors have achieved a uniformity of style and mostly avoid the overlap that can disrupt multi-author volumes. The chapter on future prospects is the slimmest and contains a number of future prospects from the first edition. Despite this, the author gives a balanced view of the frustrations on finding a cure for CF.

And so to the ward round questions: we found useful advice about enzymes and overnight feeds; the flutter was indexed and relevant studies were well summarized and referenced; but information on the use of macrolide antibiotics in CF was much harder to find.

Anyone who cares for patients with CF or is researching this condition needs this book on their shelf. Such a well-referenced and comprehensive textbook holds its own against any electronic rival.

Colin Wallis, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London

Psychosocial Aspects of Cystic Fibrosis

Edited by Myra Bluebond-Langner, Bryan Lask, Denise B Angst
Arnold 2001

Price £75.00. Pp 482

ISBN 0340758910

Dealing with the psychosocial aspects of cystic fibrosis (CF) is one of the most time-consuming elements of patient care in this illness. A comprehensive book of this type is therefore timely and could be of considerable assistance to patients, their families, carers and researchers.

After an excellent overview of CF the section on family views highlights with crystal clarity the intense emotional ups and downs and crises felt by all those who are directly involved with CF on a regular basis. The complex factors involved in making routine family decisions, e.g. holidays, are well described. This is followed by a section on growth, development and associated problems, including malnutrition, reproduction and parenting. Support networks for families and the CF team are discussed as well as sibling relationships. Self care is highlighted along with issues relating to transfer to adult clinics.

Subsequent chapters review various psychological therapeutic interventions and their provision. Case scenarios emphasize issues raised by affected individuals and their families; these will be very helpful to carers dealing with only a few patients. The chapter on death and dying is particularly perceptive.

The final section deals with genetic testing, neonatal screening, potential new therapies, transplantation and ethics. Issues surrounding lung transplantation are particularly well reviewed

and the need for realism regarding long-term outcomes is emphasized.

This book succeeds in reviewing this important area and it is an excellent example of international cooperation both in chapter writing and editorship. It is recommended reading for all health professionals caring for anyone with CF.
Bob Dinwiddie, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London

Oxford Textbook of Surgery (2nd edn)

Edited by Peter J Morris,

William C Wood

Oxford University Press 2001

Price £350.00. Pp 3992

ISBN 0 1926 2982 4

This book consists of three large volumes and 3600 pages of text. There are 51 sections written by 409 international contributors. The book aims to provide sufficient detail to be of use to experienced surgeons as well as trainees.

The topics cover the whole of general surgery as well as specialty sections. These include obstetrics and gynaecology, urology, cardiac and thoracic surgery, paediatric surgery, neurosurgery, head and neck surgery, orthopaedics and plastic surgery. Many clear colour illustrations and tables annotate the text and make the book very readable. Each section or subsection has a list of key references.

Topics such as molecular biology, minimally invasive surgery, evidence-based approach to surgical decisions and pain relief are included. There is also a substantial section on special aspects of surgery in developing countries that will be of interest to surgeons worldwide. The index is clear and comprehensive.

This book is a valuable reference that encompasses the whole breadth of surgery within three tomes. Increasing specialization tends to limit the breadth of knowledge and expertise to increasingly narrow fields but those boundaries are transgressed within this single text.

Andrew Swift, University Hospital Aintree