

Book Reviews

Immunology

Edited by Richard M. Hyde, Ph.D., and Robert A. Patnode, Ph.D. 1987, 178 pp
illus. New York, John Wiley & Sons, \$20.00, ISBN 0-471-82925-0

This volume is from the National Medical Series for Independent Study. The text was developed as a syllabus to be used in the second-year medical class in immunology at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. It has evolved over the past 12 years and presents a review of native immunity, immunogenicity, the mechanisms and products of the immune responses, and practical considerations of immunization and laboratory procedures used in the diagnosis of disease. Other chapters are on defects in native and acquired immunities, diseases with inappropriate immune system turn-on, autoreactivity, and transplantation and tumor immunology.

Although this book is for medical students, it should serve an important function for allergy and clinical immunology fellows in self-assessing their educational needs. There is a 60-question pretest and, at the end, a 60-question posttest. There are 13 chapters, each with questions, bringing the total number of questions to 300. Of particular value are the annotated answers to clarify the material.

The text is in outline format and contains the essence of most immunology. Although it lacks the depth needed by specialists, it will serve the purpose of updating most readers. Even without references, this inexpensive volume is a bargain.

Herbert C. Mansmann, Jr., M.D.

Allergy Plants That Cause Sneezing and Wheezing

Mary Jelks, M.D., 1986, 65 pp illus. Tampa, Florida, World-Wide Printing, \$8.95
softcover, \$17.95 hard cover, ISBN 0-911977-04-X

Here's what internationally acclaimed allergist, Dr. Samuel Bukantz, says about this unique new guide: "This book will be very helpful to allergic patients everywhere as well as the primary care physician whose clinical functions bring him face to face with the problems of allergic disease on an almost daily basis. Dr. Mary Jelks has combined her extensive experience in the clinical aspects of allergic disease with knowledge gained through a life-long study of plants to create this guide. It is marvellously illustrated with laser-scanned photographs and high quality printing techniques. I recommend this book with great enthusiasm."

With this, I concur. I wanted to share Sam's comment from the cover with you, since it so eloquently matches the book. Even the nonallergic nature walker, interested in how some humans must interact with plants, would enjoy reading this guide. It belongs in every clinician's waiting room, yet the pictures are so magnificent that it would surely walk away.

The text, besides describing the plants, teaches the allergic patient how to avoid exposure to all types of allergens. The well-written introduction explains what an allergy is, why a person becomes allergic, all about pollen, how pollen is counted, the significance of pollen counts, and how to use this book. There is an adequate lay discussion of house dust, fungi, molds, danders, and feather allergens. It ends with a seasonal versus geographic area illustration of the various grass seasons and instructions on how to avoid airborne allergens.

I strongly advocate the broadest dissemination of this unbelievable patient care resource. (Mail Order: P.O. Box 24339, Tampa FL 33523)

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