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Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine

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Full Text

Building on 6 decades of tradition, the 18th edition of *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine* features an updated, multimedia format that presents the core knowledge of internal medicine in a comprehensive yet easy-to-navigate fashion. This hefty, 2-volume text is a worthy update to what is arguably the most recognized book in all of medicine.

Medicine has evolved considerably during the 63 years since the first edition, and several entirely new specialties have emerged. As the editors recollect in the preface, "peptic ulcer disease was thought to be caused by stress, nearly every tumor that was not resected led to death, rheumatic heart disease was widely prevalent, and hepatitis B and [human immunodeficiency virus] infection were unknown." Today, the sheer volume of information required by the internist is mind-boggling, and the body of evidence informing clinical care continues to burgeon. The transformation in how physicians learn the art and science of medicine has been equally dramatic.

for *Congenital and Structural Heart Disease* (Informa), devote less space to defining basic skills and program development and are more expensive. Thus, *Structural Heart Disease Interventions* may be the best first book for readers starting in this field.

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Conflict of Interest Disclosures: The author has completed and submitted the ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest and none were reported.

PEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE STUDY GUIDE: TEXT AND REVIEW

Edited by Steven E. Lucking, Frank A. Maffei, Robert F. Tamburro, and Neal J. Thomas

952 pp, \$89.95

New York, NY, Springer, 2012

ISBN-13: 978-0-85729-922-2

PROVIDING CARE TO CRITICALLY ILL CHILDREN IS A PRIVILEGE that comes with profound responsibility. Pediatric critical care medicine demands a great deal from those who are blessed to practice it. The field is multidisciplinary by nature, and practitioners require a wide fund of knowledge across many different organ-based subspecialties. Acquiring and maintaining such a broad fund of knowledge and mastering the fundamentals of the practice of this specialty can be a challenge.

Pediatric Critical Care Study Guide: Text and Review provides an important and practical resource not only for individuals training to become pediatric intensivists but also for seasoned experts who may be looking for a quick refresher or update. Although many available textbooks can serve as primary references for pediatric critical care medicine, this particular textbook serves a different and complementary purpose. The book distills and presents the essentials of the practice of pediatric critical care medicine in approachable ways and in digestible portions that together provide a solid foundation for the mastery of fundamentals.

The 952 pages and 42 chapters cover the essentials across all of the major organ systems. The first few chapters address basic physiology, with individual chapters devoted to topics such as the fundamentals of gas exchange, hemodynamics, the structure and function of the nephron, and the inflammatory process. Essential therapeutic modalities, such as conventional and nonconventional mechanical ventilation (each with its own chapter), cardiovascular drug therapy, renal replacement, and sedation and analgesia are presented next. Subsequent chapters in the second half of the textbook cover distinct disease processes, including status asthmaticus, circulatory failure and shock, sepsis, traumatic brain injury, acute kidney injury, and acute liver injury. The study guide concludes with several chapters devoted to special circumstances such as metabolic crises,

management of trauma and burns, and toxicology. The textbook has been carefully edited by 4 internationally recognized experts in pediatric critical care medicine and includes chapters by contributors also expert in the field.

Every chapter has the same structure, thereby transforming the text into an easily assimilated, reliable study guide. To achieve this, the editors applied to every chapter a thoughtful formula that starts with a brief content outline and a list of learning objectives followed by the chapter's content. This content is bookended with an introduction and a summary. Every chapter concludes with 7 to 10 multiple-choice review questions and a list of between 5 and 55 suggested readings. Importantly, the content of every chapter is supported with numerous figures, charts, tables, and equations. These represent the classic graphics and equations that distill the principles of practice and demonstrate the fundamentals of the field.

For individuals seeking to master the essentials, *Pediatric Critical Care Study Guide: Text and Review* will serve as an enormously valuable resource. It is a highly informative, accessible, and enjoyable guide that will complement the intensivist's library of cornerstone texts and high-impact journals. For the young intensivist, the guide will serve as a means of learning the essentials of the field while preparing for certification. For the more experienced intensivist, it will serve as a practical resource for regular reference as well as a review text for recertification. As the editors write in the preface, "the care of children is both a privilege and a blessing." It is therefore incumbent on those who choose to practice pediatric critical care medicine to become expert in their field, and this guide will certainly help facilitate that noble endeavor.

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HARRISON'S PRINCIPLES OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

By Dan Longo, Anthony Fauci, Dennis Kasper, Stephen Hauser, and Joseph Loscalzo

18th ed, 2 vols, 4012 pp (with DVD), \$220

New York, NY, McGraw-Hill, 2011

ISBN-13: 978-0071748896

BUILDING ON 6 DECADES OF TRADITION, THE 18TH EDITION OF *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine* features an updated, multimedia format that presents the core knowledge of internal medicine in a comprehensive yet easy-to-navigate fashion. This hefty, 2-volume text is a worthy update to what is arguably the most recognized book in all of medicine.

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