

tomy, pelvic lymphadenectomy and adrenalectomy; stomach — 6 chapters on gastrectomy, gastroenterostomy, vagotomy, peptic ulcer complications, gastroesophageal reflux surgery and access for enteral feeding; colon and small bowel — 7 chapters on colon resection, anterior resection, endoluminal rectal surgery, ileostomy and colostomy, small-bowel resection and appendectomy; hernia — 4 chapters on intraperitoneal, retroperitoneal and extraperitoneal approaches of inguinal hernia and repair of ventral hernia. These sections are followed by a section on thoracoscopy, which contains 6 chapters on exploratory thoracoscopy, dorsal sympathectomy, lung resection, esophageal surgery, pericardiectomy and cardiomyotomy for achalasia. The final single-chapter section on future technology focuses on future directions in robotics, virtual reality and remote surgery.

The editors claim that this book contains the latest clinical procedures and will aid the beginning as well as the most experienced laparoscopist. The book is written by many of the leading experts and pioneers with extensive experience in this field. The chapters are fairly uniform in quality; and the drawings and colour photographs are generally excellent. As such, this book of operative laparoscopy and thoracoscopy will be a useful addition to the established literature on the subject.

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REVIEW FOR SURGERY: SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE. 2nd edition. Edited by Lazar G. Greenfield, Michael W. Mulholland, Keith D. Lillemoe, Keith T. Oldham and Gerald

B. Zelenock. 515 pp. Illust. Lippincott-Raven, Philadelphia. 1997. US\$39.95. ISBN 0-397-51582-0

The *Review for Surgery* is a question and answer-style manual, designed to accompany the second edition of the text *Surgery: Scientific Principles and Practice*. It should be noted, however, that this review book can also stand alone as a source of information and as a study guide. It is designed to be a self-assessment and education tool for surgeons at all levels of training and practice. Both the resident-in-training preparing for qualifying examinations and the established practising surgeon taking recertification board examinations are the intended readers.

The book is divided into 114 topics, dealing with basic issues such as inflammation, wound healing, gene therapy and tumour biology, as well as clinical topics such as gastric neoplasms, thyroid disease, pancreatitis and colon cancer.

The categories cover all areas of general surgery, including pertinent aspects of other specialties (e.g., pediatric, vascular, orthopedic and gynecologic surgery). For each section a selection of multiple-choice questions, their answers and a brief explanation of each response are included. The answers are cross-referenced to the chapter in the main surgical text.

The style is concise yet thorough and covers a broad range of important areas. Its content is factual, accurate and up to date. The presentation is enhanced by the addition of diagrams, graphs and tables, although these are infrequent. Minor problems include the omission of a few topics I would consider important, such as pharmacology, ethics and clinical epidemiology. A helpful addition would be additional references, either accompanying each question or as a list at the end of each section.

For those who prefer it, the text has also been placed on computer, and the diskette is included with the printed textbook on purchase. This allows you to read and answer your questions on screen in a study mode or a test mode. If you prefer interacting with a computer screen instead of a book, this may be a welcome adjunct, although a technical problem with this caused me some minor frustration. It was impossible to enlarge the working window such that the whole question could fit on the screen at any one time. This necessitated frequent movement of the cursor, which became quite irritating.

In summary this is an excellent, comprehensive review program and a helpful tool for the surgeon who wishes to study for examination or update his or her knowledge base.

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THE STANFORD MANUAL OF CARDIOPULMONARY TRANSPLANTATION. Edited by Julian A. Smith, Patrick M. McCarthy, George E. Saris, Edward B. Stinson and Bruce A. Reitz. 306 pp. Illust. Futura Publishing Company Inc., Armonk, NY. 1996. US\$65. ISBN 0-87993-637-1

This is the first edition of a multi-authored book from one of the leading centres in thoracic organ transplantation. The editors have achieved their stated goal: to present the surgical and medical management strategies in patients who undergo thoracic organ transplantation in a clear, precise and easily retrievable format. "The target audience is not only physicians and nurses working in a