

## BOOK REVIEW



***INTERNAL MEDICINE*, by Dubravko Petrač, Editor. Medicinska naklada, Zagreb, 2009, 444 pages. ISBN 978-953-1-391-2**

Internal medicine contains different specializations and sub-specializations that are constantly improving by numerous clinical investigations and technological development. Therefore, it is necessary to follow and analyze current views about causes, diagnosis and treatment of internal diseases.

Since 1961, when the last edition of the book *Internal Medicine* by Prof. Ivan Botteri was published, there has been no other textbook for students in Croatian, which has made the process of teaching even more complicated, both in terms of student education and student interaction. Therefore the book *Internal Medicine* by Prof. Petrač and coworkers, as a university teaching material published by Medicinska naklada, is a highly welcome and comprehensive reading presenting the latest achievements in the field.

The remarkable diversity of treatable diseases involving the main internal organ systems is presented clearly and concisely. The book is divided into eight sections: Diseases of the heart and blood vessels; Diseases of the lung and respiratory tract; Diseases of the alimentary system; Diseases of the hematopoietic system; Diseases of the kidneys and urinary tract; Diseases of the metabolism and endocrine glands; Rheumatic diseases; and Diseases of the immediate type of hypersensitivity. Each section is divided into smaller chapters on particular disease groups.

At the beginning of each section there is short presentation of the structure and function of the respective organic system, followed by the symptoms, signs and diagnostic methods available. This is followed by systematic and detailed presentation of the diseases, including definition, epidemiology, etiology, pathophysiology, clinical features, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, treatment and prognosis. At the end of each section there is an index of the most important literature used. The textbook has 440 pages, 109 illustrations and 113 tables.

Thirteen coworkers, all professors of Internal Medicine at School of Dental Medicine and/or School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, worked on this book. Thus, all chapters are written according to the basic principles and latest achievements in the field of internal medicine, also including personal experiences based on daily clinical routine. Specific algorithms and current guidelines for diagnosis and treatment are provided in a simple and comprehensible manner.

Although the book is primarily intended for dental medicine students, it is highly recommendable and useful for all those attending School of Medicine, Medical College or other related schools, as well as for specialists of internal medicine interested in up-to-date information in the field.

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