

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of *Pulmonary Pathology*

REFERENCE: *Pulmonary Pathology*, D. H. Dail and S. P. Hammar, Eds., Springer-Verlag, New York, \$220.00.

The scope of contemporary forensic medicine has evolved to the point where the medicolegally oriented pathologist is frequently called upon to examine and autopsy deaths that, until recently, would either have been autopsied by a hospital-based pathologist or, more probably, not have been autopsied at all. Issues such as medical negligence, injury causation, liability, workplace safety, and iatrogenic complications of therapy now necessitate the inclusion of the forensic pathologist, who, among physicians, usually has the greatest experience in melding the often divergent medical and jurisprudential viewpoints. To facilitate this best, the pathologist needs the proper training and tools, like any craftsman. A recently published resource, *Pulmonary Pathology*, edited by Dail and Hammar, is clearly an exemplary addition to the pathologist's tool chest.

This textbook provides an excellent, up-to-date assimilation of pulmonary pathology. Several chapters are distinctly relevant to legal medicine, especially those discussing iatrogenic and toxic injury, mineral pneumoconioses, asbestosis, effects of tobacco, and emphysema and chronic airways disease. The information within the iatrogenic and toxic injury section is particularly useful, as pulmonary complications are frequently serious, and occasionally fatal, sequelae of reactions to both therapeutic and illicit drug use. The chapter which discusses tobacco and its effects, immediately followed by the chapter devoted to emphysema and chronic airways disease, emphasizes the importance of environmental alterations and their effects on the health of the human organism. The remainder of the book contains exhaustive chapters on all manner of pulmonary infectious processes, neoplasia, congenital and developmental disorders, and interstitial diseases, as well as chapters addressing clinical, radiographic, and cytologic correlations. Each chapter terminates with a comprehensive reference listing, emphasizing both older, seminal literature and more recently published advances in each topic.

This textbook on pulmonary pathology is an important reference work, and will certainly maintain its usefulness and significance for many years. The extensive information it contains would be useful for any general anatomic pathologist, any pathologist with an interest in lung disorders, and any forensic pathologist who regularly deals with environmental exposures to foreign substances in a medicolegal context.

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