

in people with epilepsy. The presence of behavioral abnormalities in epilepsy has been long identified, but little emphasis or structure have been provided to the problem addressed by this book.

This reference text is a vastly reconfigured version of the 2001 edition. There are good reasons for this significant change, due to greater information on the many behavioral illnesses associated with epilepsy. The second edition is much larger, now at 547 pages. This textual increase arises partly from several newer sections and partly from more extensive coverage within established chapters.

Structural changes make this edition easier to use than its predecessor. The chapters in the earlier edition were not arranged logically, but the current version is divided into sections on basic concepts including animal modeling, diagnostic evaluations, and the psychiatric and para-ictal disorders, with attention to special populations. Many sections of the book are considerably improved. The chapters on affective and anxiety disorders are pragmatic in that the tables have been redone and are much easier to read. There are new, thought-provoking chapters covering the growing area of models for behavior disease. The chapters on many traditional areas, such as forced normalization, take some long-overdue, fresh approaches to these long-standing issues.

Unlike the editors of many second editions, Ettinger and Kanner have sought out many new authors, and most chapters have significant amounts of novel information. *Psychiatric Issues in Epilepsy: A Practical Guide to Diagnosis and Treatment* also is extensively referenced; chapters typically have numerous pages of references, providing a guide to related original articles. I find a chapter or review more beneficial if it contains more original sources. I will place this type of chapter or review at the top of my references and return to it often.

I was particularly pleased to see a chapter on health outcomes. Outcomes data are not readily available, and the application to the area of behavioral illness is valuable. The authors point out the effect of medical comorbid conditions on the outcomes of other illnesses and review the available sources in epilepsy. This chapter should grow substantially before the next edition and provide reasonable evidence-based intervention.

The sections on nonepileptic events, often referred to as pseudoseizures, are particularly helpful. The chapters on this most vexing problem completely review the literature but also provide the reader with specific approaches that are now widely used. Interest in nonepileptic events is inescapable due to their significant presence in the area of uncontrolled seizures. This book addresses that interest admirably.

The loss of the chapter on sexuality among individuals with epilepsy, which was included in the first edition, is a disappointment. Sexual dysfunction, caused by many chronic illnesses and specifically by epilepsy, contributes to overall

behavioral dysfunction and affects quality of life, and its impact can go unappreciated. As an illness affecting people throughout life, epilepsy and its effects on sexuality should be addressed.

This book is a good choice for any physician or health care professional treating seizures and epilepsy. Psychiatrists whose practices include substantial numbers of patients experiencing seizures also will find this book practical in approaching treatment options. Medical libraries in large hospitals and academic institutions will find this revised edition text even more useful than the first.

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FUNDAMENTALS OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE: A CASE-BASED APPROACH

Edited by Rainier P. Soriano, 624 pp, \$49.95.
New York, NY, Springer, 2007.
ISBN-13 978-0-3873-2324-4.

THE FIRST EDITION OF *FUNDAMENTALS OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE: A Case-Based Approach*, by Rainier P. Soriano and his associate editors Helen M. Fernandez, Christine K. Cassel, and Rosanne M. Leipzig, is a well-written book that covers a broad range of problems encountered in caring for elderly individuals. The purpose of the book is to enhance knowledge and skills of medical students, residents, fellows, and primary care physicians in caring for older patients. Twenty individuals affiliated with multiple universities in the United States have authored the chapters. According to the authors, this book is intended as a practical educational companion to the well-recognized *Geriatric Medicine: An Evidence-Based Approach*, fourth edition, edited by Christine K. Cassel et al (2003).

Fundamentals of Geriatric Medicine consists of 32 chapters. Each starts with well-defined learning objectives and an initial case presentation followed by relevant text. The initial presentation, progress, and management of 1 or more cases are integrated into the text of the respective chapter. As the reader moves through the case, the text discusses the topic using a problem-oriented approach. The format of this book is different from that of standard textbooks, which generally describe diseases of a particular organ system one at a time. In this book, diseases of a particular organ system are discussed together with the clinical management approach. Each chapter is efficiently cross-referenced to help the reader find more detailed information on a particular topic in *Geriatric Medicine: An Evidence-Based Approach*.

The first 5 chapters cover the approach to older adults, comprehensive geriatric assessment, geriatric pharmacology, sites of care for older adults, and Medicare and Medicaid. The "Approach to Older Adults" chapter describes how the history and physical examination of older persons differ from those in younger patients. It also describes in tabulated form changes in multiple systems with aging. The chapter on comprehensive geriatric assessment (CGA) nicely describes the components of CGA, members of the CGA team and their roles, and the strengths and weaknesses of instruments used for geriatric assessment.

The next 7 chapters cover topics on psychological influences on health in later life, medicolegal aspects, prevention and chemoprophylaxis in elderly individuals, vision and hearing impairments, exercise and rehabilitation, nutrition, and approach to the older surgical patient. These chapters are carefully formatted and written. The chapter on psychological influences discusses the importance of psychological, emotional, environmental, social, and spiritual domains in the well-being of older adults. It comprehensively describes elder mistreatment, neglect, caregiver burden, and the important and unique role of social workers in geriatrics. The chapter on exercise and rehabilitation describes the importance of exercise as well as an interdisciplinary team approach in rehabilitation.

The remaining 20 chapters address common problems and geriatric syndromes. These chapters cover a wide spectrum of topics including depression, dementia, delirium, sleep problems, stroke, Parkinson disease, dizziness, syncope, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, falls, hip fractures, cardiovascular and peripheral arterial diseases, diabetes, thyroid disorders, anemia, benign prostatic hyperplasia, erectile dysfunction, urinary incontinence, pressure ulcers, palliative care, and pain management. An excellent chapter on depression, dementia, and delirium not only describes epidemiology, risk factors, and management of these conditions, but also adequately explains the overlap of these 3 geriatric syndromes and how to differentiate one from another. The chapter on overview of palliative care and non-pain symptom management is appropriately written and constructed. It covers good communication, emotion-handling skills, communicating bad news, answering difficult questions, and management of nonpain symptoms such as constipation, dyspnea, nausea, vomiting, and spiritual distress. The final chapter discusses principles of pain management and concisely covers pathophysiology of pain, how to obtain adequate pain history, different types of available medications, and the multifactorial approach to pain management.

Fundamentals of Geriatric Medicine comprehensively covers the broad field of geriatric medicine in 624 pages. Each chapter provides bulleted learning objectives and cases to illustrate the clinical issues but also summarizes general principles. The bibliography at the end of each chapter is up to date, and key references under the heading "suggested read-

ing" are appropriately provided at the beginning of each list. The book is reasonably priced at \$49.95 and is unique in its approach as a companion book to *Geriatric Medicine: An Evidence-Based Approach*. It provides clinically relevant information in an excellent, straightforward manner. It will be decidedly useful to medical students, residents, fellows, and primary care clinicians (physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants).

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JUSTINIAN'S FLEA: PLAGUE, EMPIRE, AND THE BIRTH OF EUROPE

By William Rosen, 367 pp, \$27.95.
New York, NY, Viking Press-Penguin Group, 2007.
ISBN-13 978-0-6700-3855-8.

WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE DIFFICULTY OF HIS TASK, IN THIS book William Rosen sets out to examine why, after its immense success, the Roman empire fragmented into so many pieces. He argues that the bubonic plague was one of the key factors in the dissolution of the empire, since the resultant loss of population also meant a loss of soldiers and farmers. So he explores the reign of Justinian, who ruled the empire when plague first broke out in 540 CE. This is an impressively wide-ranging book covering epidemiology, medical history, economics, agricultural history, evolution, and architecture.

Justinian's Flea is divided into 4 parts. Part 1, "Emperor," details the growth of the empire and Justinian's progress from a peasant village in Illyria to the head of the Roman Empire. Part 2, "Glory," concentrates on Justinian's triumphs as a builder, jurist, and conqueror. Chapter 4 concerns the building of the Hagia Sophia, while chapter 5 discusses the issue for which Justinian is perhaps best known, the reform of the legal system. Chapter 6 examines the military victories of the general Belisarius and the re-taking of Rome.

It is perhaps part 3, on bacteria, which will most interest JAMA readers. This begins with a vivid description of Anton van Leeuwenhoek's discovery of "animalcules"—tiny forms living in a drop of water. Rosen marshals information from history, zoology, genetics, complexity theory, meteorology, and evolutionary theory to present a fascinating account of the interrelationship between fleas, rats, bacteria, climate, and food supply. He shows that history can hinge on seemingly unimportant details. According to Rosen, "for nearly two billion years, bacteria were not only the lords of creation; they were creation itself." He then reminds readers that their ancestors were "a group of bipedal primates"



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A Case-Based Approach

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