

The sections comprising theme II and theme III are the weakest of the book. They focus on the control of smooth muscle tone and the control of growth and proliferation, respectively. There are several mechanisms involved in the regulation of myogenic tone including neurogenic, myogenic, and endothelial. Although an attempt was made to cover these areas in theme II, this section is skewed towards endothelial mechanisms and specifically towards nitric oxide. Theme III has an excellent review of vascular remodeling during hypertension; however, the other two studies in this section are not especially pertinent. For example, one study on platelet-derived growth factor focuses on the contractility induced by the peptide and not its growth effects.

Theme IV is a worthwhile section that provides the researcher information on several new techniques and methodologic approaches for studying resistance arteries. Although seemingly scant on techniques, this section is not the only place in the book where techniques can be found. Scattered throughout individual studies are many different methods, means, and systems used to study these small arteries. This section is what makes this book well-rounded, covering the physiologic significance of the resistance-sized arteries, normal and pathologic function, and the most pertinent techniques and methodologic approaches. This book will be welcome by any researcher investigating the pathophysiology of the resistance vasculature.

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Vascular surgery: Principles and techniques, 4th edition

Henry Haimovici, Cambridge, Mass., 1995, Blackwell Science, 1388 pages, \$199.95.

Henry Haimovici's *Vascular Surgery* has been considered among the best vascular textbooks since the publication of the first edition in 1976. The fourth edition is no exception. From the foreword by C. Rollins Hanlon to the exhaustive index, this comprehensive textbook skillfully explores the history, anatomy, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and therapy of vascular disease.

Although Dr. Haimovici remains the editor-in-chief, he has enlisted the assistance of four renowned coeditors, three of whom are new to this edition. Furthermore, the new edition boasts more than 100 contributors, nearly double that of the third edition. The contributors originate from a total of 10 different countries, providing an international perspective. Essentially all of the contributors are respected and well-published within their fields, and the majority of the data included in the chapters have previously been presented in peer-reviewed journals.

Each chapter is thoroughly illustrated, tabulated, and referenced. The inclusion of 67 color plates enhances the reader's appreciation of angioscopic, color-flow, and histologic images. The illustrations contained within the chapters on surgical vascular anatomy are particularly note-

worthy, as this section is often omitted or abbreviated in modern vascular surgical textbooks.

Although the textbook gives an admirable review of the colorful history of vascular surgery, its strengths clearly lies in its analysis of the most recent developments in vascular diagnosis and therapy. Included are discussions of intravascular ultrasound, magnetic resonance angiography, intraoperative assessment of reconstructions, graft surveillance, intravascular stents, angiography, endovascular grafting, and thoracoscopic and laparoscopic sympathectomy. Each of these topics is addressed critically by specialists with broad clinical experience. The material is refreshingly current, even to the extent of including an addendum referencing the carotid surgery trials published in 1995. Despite the considerable expansion of the scope of the fourth edition, it has been lengthened by less than 300 pages and remains contained within one convenient volume.

The shortcomings of *Haimovici's Vascular Surgery* are few. Some readers may be distracted by the awkward presentation of certain equations and tables, but these errors are infrequent. The persistent inclusion of the discussion of cerebrovascular disease within the section of visceral ischemia and the fragmentary discussion of pediatric vascular problems are noteworthy, but minor, deficiencies.

Overall, *Haimovici's Vascular Surgery* represents a significant achievement in the evolution of a superb textbook compiled by a surgeon whose first publication appeared in 1937.

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Lower extremity vascular disease

Kenneth Ouriel, Philadelphia, 1995, W.B. Saunders, 440 pages.

Lower Extremity Vascular Disease, edited by Kenneth Ouriel, is a text with contributions by 43 authors. The book contains 30 chapters divided into five sections. The first section of the text covers "General Principles." In the preface to the book, Dr. Ouriel states that the most cost-effective method of addressing lower extremity vascular disease is prevention. The first section of this text is directed at defining the pathogenesis and early diagnosis of vascular disease, thus suggesting possible prevention. Contained in this section is a well-written chapter by Dr. Olin entitled, "The Importance of Lipids and Lipoproteins in the Progression and Regression of Atherosclerosis." These first five chapters are concise, easily readable, and serve as an excellent review.

The second section of the text is entitled "Aneurysmal Disease" and includes chapters on thoracoabdominal aneurysms, juxtarenal aneurysms, infrarenal aneurysms, and extremity aneurysms. The chapter on thoracoabdominal aneurysms, authored by Dr. Safi, is well-written and well-illustrated. The third portion of the text is entitled "Lower Extremity Arterial Occlusive Disease." This section begins

with chapters on aortoiliac reconstruction and progresses distally to a chapter on infrapopliteal artery bypass. Also included in this section are numerous chapters on endovascular surgical techniques. There is a very well-written chapter on endovascular imaging techniques and another chapter on interventional angiographic techniques.

The fourth portion of the text is entitled "Thrombolysis." This section of the text is very much state-of-the-art. Two of the seven chapters are coauthored by the editor. This portion of the text represents approximately 25% of the total book, obviously reflecting the editor's bias. It is especially well-written and informative. The final portion of the text is entitled "Lower Extremity Venous Disease" and covers the spectrum from venous stasis disease to pulmonary embolism.

Overall, the book is well edited. The title of the textbook, *Lower Extremity Vascular Disease*, provides no clues as to why the book contains chapters on thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms, juxtarenal abdominal aortic aneurysms, and infrarenal aortic aneurysms. There is also a chapter on endovascular aneurysm repair, mainly discussing aortic repair. It would seem prudent to change the title of this textbook from *Lower Extremity Vascular Disease* to a more inclusive one. In the preface of the text, Dr. Ouriel states that he hopes the text will serve those engaged in developing a basic level of knowledge of vascular disease, as well as those expanding or refreshing their knowledge. I believe the goal is achieved. This book is appropriate for the general surgical resident embarking on a vascular rotation. It also may serve some of the general surgeons who would like to remain current in the treatment of vascular disease.

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Textbook of critical care, 3rd edition

Shoemaker, Ayres, Grenvik, and Holbrook, Philadelphia, 1995, W.B. Saunders, 1892 pages, \$115.

The third edition of Dr. Shoemaker's *Textbook of Critical Care* continues the tradition established by the original edition as a reference book of authoritative excellence. This edition includes an impressive list of more than 300 contributors recognized as experts in their given fields of critical care medicine. Among the list are the first three presidents of the Society of Critical Care—including Dr. Shoemaker himself. More than 200 independent chapters arranged in 17 sections cover all aspects of medical, surgical, obstetric, and pediatric critical care.

As a vascular surgeon, I cannot help but be impressed by the comprehensive clinical range that our colleagues in critical care have chosen to include within their domain. The great detail and organization of the textbook are rivaled only by its remarkable thoroughness. The volume of information in this text is enormous. Topics receiving comparable attention range from the fairly typical chapter on the diagnosis and treatment of shock syndrome to subjects as tedious as surfactant physiology. Rather mundane problems

such as providing pharmaceutical services in the ICU are coupled with detailed chapters on prostaglandins, leukotrienes, and the regulation of gene expression. From cellular biology through computers in the ICU to medical ethics, the extent to which each author has covered his assigned topic is quite extraordinary. To this end, this text should be considered a complete reference of critical care and probably can best be characterized as a critical care encyclopedia.

However, as is the case with many broad-based textbooks including many in general surgery, topics overlap, and variation in quality is inevitable. Although the text is current, some chapters are holdovers from the second edition, and other chapters, while complete, are confined by their length to a superficial review. For example, the author of "Diagnosis and Therapy of Vascular Diseases" had the formidable task of detailing acute and chronic arterial insufficiency, diseases of the aorta, upper extremity ischemia, cerebrovascular insufficiency, mesenteric arterial insufficiency, complications of vascular surgery, and venous disease, all in less than five pages. Our trauma/critical care surgeons, in helping review this text, observed similar superficialities in the area of critical care monitoring, including deficiencies in discussions of the newer pulmonary artery catheters with end-diastolic volume indices and the newer modes of ventilatory support.

Although this text, for the practicing general surgeon and surgical intensivist, may be deficient in its emphasis of surgical critical care, other textbooks dedicated solely to the practice of surgical critical care do exist. As a practicing vascular surgeon, coping daily with arterial insufficiency in often the most beleaguered medical patient, this textbook will add to my clinical data base, particularly through its wide range and broad scope.

In summary, I congratulate the authors for writing such a comprehensive volume on the practice of critical care medicine. This book will serve as a usable reference resource on anyone's bookshelf.

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Microsurgical carotid endarterectomy

Julian Bailes and Robert Spetzler, Philadelphia, 1996, Lippincott-Raven, 220 pages, \$150.

This text of 200 pages contains 10 chapters by the senior editors, neurologic surgeons at Allegheny General Hospital (Pittsburgh) and the Barrow Neurologic Institute (Phoenix), as well as 15 other authors who are neurosurgeons, neuroanesthesiologists, neurologists, and neuroradiologists. Introductory chapters include overviews on the epidemiology and natural history of carotid stenosis, preoperative risk assessment, and patient selection for carotid endarterectomy. The next chapter reviews carotid angiography, magnetic resonance, and magnetic resonance arteriography, followed by chapters describing the anesthetic management during carotid endarterectomy and the operative technique itself, which is beautifully illustrated. The