
Book Review

Otolaryngology: Basic Science and Clinical Review

Thomas R. Van de Water and Hinrich Staecker, MD, PhD

New York: Thieme, 2006. Paperback. ISBN 0-86577-901-5.

The text *Otolaryngology: Basic Science and Clinical Review*, edited by Thomas R. Van de Water with associate editor Hinrich Staecker, MD, PhD, is a significant contribution to the specialty of otolaryngology–head and neck surgery. This book succeeds in integrating the essentials of the basic science of otolaryngology with its clinical applications.

The text is comprehensive for the specialty of otolaryngology–head and neck surgery and for its focus on clinical issues that are in the forefront of our specialty. Contributions by academic leaders in our specialty in both basic science and clinical medicine are included in this book.

In this age of translational and personal medicine with a focus in the head-and-neck area on sensory disorders, tumors and cancer, and quality-of-life issues, it is essential that students, residents, and practitioners in otolaryngology–head and neck surgery and allied fields of audiology, neurology, neurosurgery, and biochemistry have a state-of-the-art, authoritative resource that provides basic science information for integration into clinical practice. A review of the table of contents, which lists 60 chapters by 100 leading contributors, reveals this book as an authoritative resource for teaching, research, and clinical practice. The successful clinical practice of our specialty requires such a translation and integration with basic science.

The text is organized into six parts, all excellent, that include all aspects of the specialty of otolaryngology–head and neck surgery. Part I, Basic Principles, and Part II, Ear, Hearing, and Balance, are of special inter-

est to readers of the *International Tinnitus Journal*. The order of these chapters and their content provides the reader with a basic science background that assists one in understanding and contributing to ongoing discussions and controversies in otolaryngology centered around hearing, tinnitus, and balance mechanisms, Ménière's disease, cochlear implantation and, for the future, treatment of sensorineural hearing loss, tinnitus, and vertigo. Particularly for sensory disorders, the text provides a basic science introduction to clinical issues of neurodegeneration, neuroprotection, and clinical translation for drug delivery and surgical therapeutic modalities.

It is hoped that the next edition of this text will be undertaken in no more than 5 years—to maintain and update the state-of-the-art information that it offers—and that a new edition might be expanded into three volumes. Those three volumes would focus on the ear, the nose, and the throat and would provide space for the addition of basic science information of sensory physiology for translation to the understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of sensory disorders of patients seeking services within the discipline of otolaryngology–head and neck surgery.

This text is a tribute to the high academic standards and memory of Professor of Otolaryngology Maxwell Abramson, Chairman, Department of Otolaryngology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, and to the tradition of excellence of the editors, Thomas Van de Water and Hinrich Staecker, and all of the book's contributors. Residents in otolaryngology and allied fields, medical students, and all individuals interested in the disciplines of the ear, nose, and throat, head, and neck will find this text a valuable source of reference for translation into the clinical practice of otolaryngology–head and neck surgery.

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