**BOOK REVIEW**


The editors of this 32-chapter, 49-author volume state that their goal was to publish the first comprehensive textbook on apheresis technology and practice. To achieve this, they recruited a who’s who of apheresis specialists, including physicians, nurses, technologists, engineers, and inventors. The result is an impressive compendium of the state of science as well as a clinical and historical overview of apheresis and its diverse applications.

The strength of this textbook is its comprehensive, multiinstitutional perspective. This breadth could be achieved only by assembling the expertise and experience of many contributors in one volume. At the same time, the weakness of the textbook is its repetitiveness, that is, the inevitable overlapping of topics that occurs when 32 people write independent chapters and each author draws from the same limited and relatively recent fund of published articles.

The textbook is divided into six sections. Section I introduces readers to apheresis instruments and technology through a historical review. Contributions from early investigators, including Emil J. Freireich, Jeffrey McCullough, and Toby Simon, set an expert and authoritative note.

Section II contains chapters on the collection of apheresis blood components. The contributions on platelet collection by Scott Murphy and on granulocyte concentrates by Ronald G. Strauss are particularly noteworthy. Walter Dzik’s chapter on the leukocyte content of plateletpheresis components is a highly readable and informative summary of the adverse effects of leukocyte contamination. Dr. Dzik offers readers clear, reasoned guidance for the prevention and management of alloimmunization and refractoriness to platelet transfusions.

Section III addresses therapeutic apheresis. Nine chapters summarize the authors’ experiences and, in the aggregate, provide an extensive literature review. Coeditor Mary Jo Drew’s review and recommendations for the management of thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura is thorough and useful.

Section IV focuses on the collection of hematopoietic progenitor cells by apheresis. Perspectives are represented from leading transplantation centers, including the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Yale New Haven Hospital, Johns Hopkins Oncology Center, and the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

Section V looks to the future, addressing applications of apheresis technology for research in adoptive immunotherapy, photopheresis, and cellular gene therapy.

Finally, Section VI considers practical regulatory, accreditation, and quality management issues.

Of particular interest to specialists in blood banking and immunohematology are the chapters on matching platelets by Janice G. McFarland, red cell exchange in hemoglobinopathies by Samuel Pepkowicz, and two-unit red blood cell concentrate collections by James A. Smith.

This textbook would appear to be the most comprehensive undertaking thus far by the newly established AABB Press. The overall high quality of this volume bodes well for the new enterprise. Readers will recognize the fonts and formats for tables, which are similar to those of the *Technical Manual*. The price of $139 for AABB members ($169, nonmembers) is clearly below market for a well-illustrated medical textbook of this size. In this rapidly evolving field, new information will make a second edition necessary in a short time. When the editors address that challenge, they should consider measures to reduce the repetitiveness that diminishes this first effort.

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