Respiratory medicine is a broad-based specialty that incorporates traditional pulmonary diseases such as infection, airway diseases and cancer in addition to wider aspects such as critical care and sleep disorders. Thus, it may be difficult for the general respiratory specialist to keep up to date with the latest developments across this broad range of diseases and disorders. While there are many textbooks on different aspects of respiratory medicine, there are relatively few that cover the full spectrum of the specialty, and particularly few that have been written by leading experts in all aspects of the discipline.

The present textbook incorporates an extensive series of review papers that have been drawn from review articles published in the Journal of Thoracic Disease over recent years. Typically, these articles have been published in themed issues of the Journal, thus facilitating a comprehensive coverage of each topic. Subjects covered include COPD, sleep disorders, critical care, infections (including tuberculosis), and lung cancer, in addition to broader topics such as the health effects of air pollution. Each chapter is written by leading international experts in the particular topic, and thus provides an authoritative review of the subject concerned. Thus, the book should provide a comprehensive and clinically relevant source of up-to-date information that will interest all general respiratory specialists in clinical practice.

Walter T. McNicholas, MD  
Dept. of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine, St. Vincent’s University Hospital,  
Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research,  
University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland