

“The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the *breath of life*, and the man became a living being” (Genesis 2:7). According to Wikipedia, “Breath of Life” is a song by the English indie rock band Florence and the Machine, recorded exclusively for the film *Snow White and the Huntsman* (2012). The song received many positive reviews from music critics (1).

This textbook “*Trachea and Bronchus Surgery*” edited by X. Li and F. Venuta is a state of the art review meant for thoracic surgeons dealing with diseases of the airway. Most chapters are written by experts in the field of tracheal and bronchial surgery. The book covers all surgical aspects for successful treatment of airway pathology: from history, to diagnosis, anaesthesia, resection and reconstruction, endoscopic management, treatment and prevention of complications, and new and evolving techniques such as tracheal replacement and tracheal engineering. The entire spectrum of diseases of the airways are discussed: diverticulum, stenosis, benign and malignant tumors, foreign bodies, trauma, infectious disorders, fistula.

This textbook is a very welcomed reference work for thoracic surgeons interested in the many aspects of airway pathology and its management. The late Hermes C Grillo (1923-2006) and F. Griffith Pearson (1926-2016), both pioneers in airway surgery, would have been very proud to read this publication and to write this preface.

We are grateful to all authors for teaching us how to keep the airway open so that the *breath of life* can be blown again into any individual suffering from an airway disorder. By following the principles written in this book, our patients will remain living human beings.

References

1. Breath of Life. Available online: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breath_of_Life_\(Florence_and_the_Machine_song\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breath_of_Life_(Florence_and_the_Machine_song)). [Accessed November 1, 2017].

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