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Book Review

McManus BM (editor): *Atlas of Cardiovascular Pathology for the Clinician, 260 pp, Philadelphia, Current Medicine, 2000 (\$125.00).*

Last year I was approached by a clinician friend who asked me to recommend a good cardiac pathology book for his residents. I gave him a list of very good books, but still I was not sure that any of those were really appropriate for clinicians. With this new Atlas at hand, I now have no doubts of which book I would recommend if asked the same question again.

This multiauthored Atlas was compiled by Bruce McManus, who assembled a stellar cast of pathologists studying the heart. Like any other pathologist faced with the problem of presenting pathology to clinicians, the editor had to decide what to include and what to delete. I am not sure whether the series editor (Dr. E. Braunwald, who also wrote a Preface), a seasoned clinician, editor, and educator, has helped the pathology crew in this respect, but there is no doubt that the final product will appeal to clinicians. Physically it is very nice, large-format book, published on glossy paper. The topics covered include all the evergreens of cardiac pathology but also quite a bit of basic science data, such as cellular and molecular biology and basic electrophysiology. As one would expect in an Atlas, the emphasis is on visual pre-

sentation of data, which are rendered in high-quality color photographs. Diagrammatic drawings are yet an important didactic feature of this Atlas. The text that accompanies the illustrations is informative and written in a style that should be readily understandable by non-pathologists. There is a good balance between the length of the text and the number of illustrations. A number of summary tables is included to provide quick information about the most important facts, such as diseases that recur in cardiac allografts or conditions associated with sinus node dysfunction to mention a few. The references are well chosen.

This is a modern pathology Atlas designed to help clinicians understand the pathologic basis of human cardiovascular diseases. It will be widely used by residents and fellows in cardiology, but also by other eager students of medicine. It is an excellent teaching source—a godsend for all of us stuck with giving cardiac pathology lectures to clinical trainees. Above all, it is model on how to present pathology to non-pathologists so that it appears not only relevant and important but exciting and inspiring as well.

Ivan Damjanov

*University of Kansas School of Medicine
Kansas City, Kansas*