

NMS Medicine

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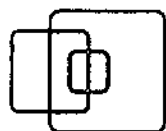
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Preface

The first exposure to clinical medicine during medical school is an eye-opening experience—a time when the student brings together the vast amount of information learned in the basic sciences and merges that with actual patient care. It is a glorious time for learning, and the amount that needs to be absorbed grows exponentially with time. It is with these first steps into clinical medicine that the young student begins to comprehend the importance of being a lifelong learner. We absorb basic concepts and build upon them, modify what we know as new advances are discovered, and continually add to our knowledge for the rest of our lives as physicians.

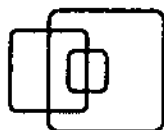
Through this comprehensive review of internal medicine, we sought to capture the essential concepts and key elements of our specialty by focusing on general internal medicine and the numerous medical subspecialties. Although internal medicine is constantly evolving, there are basic principles and thought processes that remain the essence of our specialty. Learning the facts is only the beginning. Medical students must develop their skills in deductive reasoning and synthesize these facts, weighing the pros and cons of the evaluation and management choices for their patients.

As we did in the sixth edition, *NMS Medicine* was not only written by specialists in the field, but also coauthored by chief residents and senior internal medicine residents at the University of Maryland. Since the chiefs and senior residents are much closer to the medical students in terms of their training and experience, they bring a fresh and relevant approach to this material. We welcome them as authors of this text not only for their input, but also because we enjoy mentoring our young colleagues and providing them with an opportunity to advance their scholarly activities and academic careers.

This edition is completely updated, including the chapters, case studies, and comprehensive questions. You will find a significant amount of material online, including additional content, tables, and illustrations. The  icon signals to the reader where to find these supplemental online resources. Also available online is a comprehensive exam consisting of 150 board-style review questions with answers and explanations. In addition to medical students, we anticipate that this book will be useful for residents and practicing physicians learning or reviewing the essential principles, concepts, and information in internal medicine.

We encourage you to use the material presented as the first step to advancing your understanding and knowledge of these topics in more depth, either by studying the larger and more classic textbooks of internal medicine or, more importantly, by reading the primary source literature. The process of being a lifelong learner begins here. We hope that you accept this challenge, are excited by the field of internal medicine, and share in our enthusiasm for our chosen profession. We wish you well in your studies and your career path.

Susan D. Wolfthal, MD



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