

**PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY  
AND INBORN ERRORS OF METABOLISM**

Edited by Kyriakie Sarafoglou, Georg F. Hoffmann, and Karl S. Roth. 949 pp., illustrated. New York, McGraw-Hill, 2009. \$99. ISBN 978-0-07-143915-2.

**P**EDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY AND INBORN ERRORS of *Metabolism* was designed for visual learners and features many tables and schematic presentations that are easy to consult. Its structure resembles the central intersection of a Venn diagram. The large circles include pediatric endocrinology, genetics, and metabolism, and the smaller circles are occupied by reproductive medicine, clinical chemistry, pediatric neurology, and radiology, as well as other fields. The result is an inspiring learning tool.

Editor Kyriakie Sarafoglou and associate editors Georg Hoffmann and Karl Roth fulfill the promise they make in the preface of their book — to explain and not to simplify. They have assembled a book of 50 well-integrated chapters — instead of three (or more) separate textbooks within one book — on pediatric endocrinology, pediatric diabetes (historically often separated from endocrinology), and inborn errors of metabolism. A good example of the integrated discussion of different fields is the section on disorders of fuel metabolism, which includes a chapter on pyruvate metabolism and the tricarboxylic acid cycle followed by chapters on diabetes mellitus and obesity. The idea of providing readers with a reference guide to basic metabolism as they learn about the clinical differential diagnosis of hypoglycemia, for example, is very appealing. With this book in hand, it is unnecessary to refer to a biochemistry textbook.

The many schematic presentations of biochemical pathways assist readers in understanding the underlying disorders. A special feature called “At-A-Glance,” which appears at the beginning of each chapter and illustrates the main points of a particular topic in a page or two, is most helpful. These summary tables contain brief definitions of the various disorders, associated genotypes, clinical presentations, and laboratory findings, if applicable. Detailed discussions of individual disorders follow, and they are frequently accompanied by excellent photographs. Another original feature is the section “Endocrine and Metabolic Laboratory and Radiology Tests.”

The three chapters in this section include discussions of imaging and laboratory tests, with special attention to the evaluation of newborns. The color coding of the different sections adds to the ease of using this textbook.

Sarafoglou and colleagues have combined their expertise to create an informative and timely textbook in which the explanations of underlying mechanisms guide the structure of each chapter. It is a unique book that is pleasing to the eye, nurturing for the mind, and instructive for a broad readership.

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