stakeholders to work together to address the challenges that face our country in assuring our senior citizens receive quality pain care to enhance quality of life. Although the book speaks to multidisciplinary care, the language often refers only to physicians. Stronger emphasis throughout on the interdisciplinary team, roles of the members of the team, and describing the primary care provider in broader terms to be inclusive of nurse practitioners and physician assistants would increase interest of diverse audiences.

In summary, Dr. Gloth and his team of expert authors have comprehensively addressed important aspects of caring for older adults with pain. Although I have been critical about the use of most recent literature to support recommendations on some topics, they have identified strategies for improving systems while engaging the reader in a personal search for contributions to support better pain care for the booming senior citizen population.


State of the Science:
Cancer Symptom Research

Judith A. Paice, PhD, RN

Cancer Symptom Science: Measurement, Mechanisms, and Management
Edited by Charles S. Cleeland, Michael J. Fisch, and Adrian J. Dunn
Published by Cambridge University Press, New York, NY, USA
2011, 376 pages, $120 (Hardcover)

Judith A. Paice, PhD, RN, is the Director, Cancer Pain Program, Division of Hematology-Oncology, Department of Medicine, Northwestern University; Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

This excellent text demonstrates how far our understanding of cancer symptoms has advanced, as well as the many opportunities available to continue moving this emerging science forward. Setting the stage is a compelling foreword by Ellen Stovall, a cancer survivor and advocate, reminding the reader of the desperate need for answers regarding symptom prevalence, characterization, and management. Following this forceful introduction, the body of this text proceeds in a well-organized and comprehensive manner, beginning with an introduction to important explanations differentiating symptoms from signs, describing the burden carried by our patients, along with a unifying model of the mechanisms of cancer symptoms and the role of cytokines. Section 2, entitled “Cancer Symptom Mechanisms and Models,” is the core of this textbook, addressing the most common symptoms seen in those with cancer—pain, cognitive impairment, depression, fatigue, anorexia, and sleep disorders. The editors have chosen outstanding experts from a variety of disciplines to author these chapters, supporting their aim to promote interdisciplinary research.

Section 3, “Clinical Perspectives in Symptom Management and Research,” begins by taking the novel approach of discussing cooperative trial groups. This is an astute addition to the text, as cooperative groups have the potential to overcome many of the barriers to strong symptom science in the clinical setting by allowing access to multiple centers, and as a result, potentially larger groups of subjects representing more diverse groups. Other chapters in this section address practical concerns and economic issues that contribute to assigning value to symptom-directed interventions, topics crucial to those designing and critiquing clinical trials in cancer symptom research. The fourth section addresses measurement issues and serves as a strong review of available instruments. This section concentrates on the shifting focus from investigator-derived measures to patient-reported outcomes, emphasizing the need to truly capture the patient experience.

Section 5, “Government and Industry Perspectives,” examines issues related to federal funding and drug development. Chapter 26 is a superb introduction to National Institutes of Health funding mechanisms and the processes involved in submitting grant applications for funding. Additionally, the authors include
nonfederal foundations that are currently interested in funding cancer symptom research. It should be required reading for every new investigator to this field (and some more seasoned scientists as well). The remaining two chapters address development of novel drug and biologic therapies, addressing the legal and regulatory requirements for symptom claims. Of particular interest is a clear review of the Food and Drug Administration process for securing symptom claims, along with examples of agents that have obtained approval for symptom control.

This text is of great importance to readers of the *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, particularly those interested in cancer symptom research and palliative care. Those interested in noncancer symptom research also would obtain great benefit from the information provided in this text. The content is quite timely, and these exceptional editors, who are recognized leaders in the field of cancer symptom research, are to be congratulated for meeting their aims of promoting an interdisciplinary approach to investigating these complex symptoms. The writing and organization are clear, and the information is easily accessible to the reader, with a thorough table of contents and index. This is an essential text for anyone interested in conducting or critiquing cancer symptom research.


A Multidisciplinary Approach to Pain Medicine

Adam Sachs, MD, and
Michel Y. Dubois, MD

*Pain Medicine: A Multidisciplinary Approach* is a first edition textbook by Drs. Tsui, Chen, and Ng, three of Hong Kong’s leading authorities on pain medicine. Adding to their expertise is a strong supporting cast of contributors, in majority also from Hong Kong, whose collective knowledge and clinical experience spans 10 medical specialties. The contributors’ cultural diversity, various backgrounds, and unique specialties enhance the thoroughness of the text and its applicability to health care providers all over the world. It is a remarkable attempt to present the reasons for, and the various modalities of, the multidisciplinary approach to pain management. It clearly shows the absolute necessity for such an approach, based on our present understanding of pain pathophysiology and the clinical experience of the authors, building the necessary bridges between the different specialties involved.

The book is divided into five rational sections: scientific basis of pain medicine, common clinical pain conditions, pain pharmacology, interventional procedures, and multidisciplinary approach. Multiple subdivisions are provided, most notably, “Neurobiology and Mechanism of Pain,” “Clinical Evaluation of Pain,” “Chinese Medicine,” and “Cancer Pain.” The authors have to be congratulated for devoting special attention to the areas of pediatric and geriatric pain medicine because special attention to these vulnerable populations is crucial but at times overlooked as separate topics. Some chapters are also particularly innovative by placing emphasis on the application of biostatistics to the field of pain medicine, importance and clinical analysis of muscle pain, or use of radiotherapy for cancer pain management.

There are several outstanding features in the book, notably the discussion on peripheral nerve blocks. Important blocks are covered in thorough detail, including instructive radiographs, clear schematics, and detailed ultrasound-guided diagrams. Enhancing this section are step-by-step approaches to both nerve stimulator and ultrasound-guided techniques. The multidisciplinary section is also exemplary; it includes perspectives from

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*Pain Medicine: A Multidisciplinary Approach* Edited by Siu Lun Tsui, Phoon Ping Chen, and Kwok Fu Jacobus Ng

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