

BOOK REVIEW

Transfusion Medicine, 5th Edition 2021

Edited by Jeffrey McCullough

ISBN: 978-1-119-59953-1. Wiley-Blackwell

Purchasing new reference books for our Donation Accreditation laboratory is a complex task. There are of course the standard texts such as The AABB (formerly the American Association of Blood Banks) Technical Manual which select themselves, but other texts are selected sight unseen. A judgement is made based on several things such as knowledge of an author, the listed content and indeed the type of text one needs. Recently it fell to me to make some suggestions for purchase.

One of several texts I put forward for possible purchase was the just released 5th Edition of Transfusion Medicine, edited by Jeffrey McCullough MD, a past editor of the highly regarded journal *Transfusion*, Emeritus Professor at the University of Minnesota and Adjunct Professor at the Arizona State University. On its arrival in the laboratory, I leapt upon it and commenced reading.

As a volume of 592 pages in length designed for multiple readers, in my opinion it is unfortunate the paperback format was chosen. While I presume that this was done in an effort to keep costs of production/shipping as low as possible, I have concerns that it will not stand up to the heavy usage one would hope a reference would receive. I also struggled a little with the size of the print which was smaller than I am accustomed to although the layout, within the chapters, of numerated bold headings and white space does assist.

Heavily referenced, this book is packed with facts and makes for quick review of subjects for trained staff although it appears to be more focussed towards information about the everyday challenges of hospital transfusion medicine rather than some of the more esoteric or uncommon problems of particular interest to our laboratory staff. It is written by predominantly American

experts primarily for American readers and hence some of the information is weighted toward statutory requirements that do not apply elsewhere in the world.

Personally, I would not use this book as a teaching tool as it is also necessarily light on in-depth explanations due to the broad reach of its content; for example, only one chapter is devoted to blood groups, and this chapter is 30 pages in length of which 7 pages contain only tables, the ABO Group system is discussed with a few lines on the A subgroups and only a passing mention of B subgroups.

Writing styles inevitably vary between chapters, some information is cross-referenced to other chapters which is at times frustrating and conversely there is some repetition of information where crossover of the focus of a chapter occurs, for instance between the Chapters on the blood supply, recruitment of blood donors and blood donor medical assessment, collection and complications but this is only minor. Indeed, I found the chapter on donor recruitment, which discussed the characteristics and motivations of donors and the impact of deferrals on subsequent donation, particularly interesting as this is a challenge the world over.

In summation then I would say that this is a book I have found interesting, and which provides a useful adjunct text to the ever widening field of transfusion medicine. Ranging through topics from donor management to advances in patient care it provides incentive and direction for further study through its many references and topical commentary whilst not being a standalone resource. I will be dipping into it again.

Reviewed by Sue Little, NZBS, Christchurch
