

## REVIEW OF RECENT BOOKS

### **Pediatric Cardiac Surgery, Fourth Edition**

*Edited by Constantine Mavroudis and Carl Backer*

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As the field of congenital heart surgery has matured over the past 30 years, the knowledge base required for the heart surgeon to manage these often-complicated patients satisfactorily has grown substantially. *Pediatric Cardiac Surgery*, created and edited by Eduardo Arciniegas in 1985, was one of the first textbooks directed specifically at this area of cardiac surgery. Before a decade passed, Constantine Mavroudis and Carl Backer assumed the editorial leadership and published the second edition in 1994. To their credit, they have updated the textbook diligently every 10 years. The fourth edition of *Pediatric Cardiac Surgery* has just been published, and like prior editions it will serve as an important resource for the experienced or developing congenital heart surgeon.

The editors have retained the overall format of prior editions, with a total 46 chapters related primarily to specific congenital heart lesions. As before, this textbook is the product of multiple authors whom the editors have selected based on their areas of expertise and current contributions. The editors themselves authored many of the chapters. Their involvement has helped to maintain a level of consistency from chapter to chapter. For the most part, the fourth edition of *Pediatric Cardiac Surgery* is a fresh and updated look at the field with new authors for nearly half of the chapters. New chapters in this edition include *Hybrid Procedures for Congenital Heart Disease* and *Ventricular to Pulmonary Artery Conduits*. Important chapters that were introduced in the third edition—*Pediatric Mechanical Circulatory Support* and *Adult Congenital Heart Disease*—have been updated by new authors. Adding significantly to the level of consistency throughout this

edition are the illustrations. Although some of the drawings and diagrams have been taken from peer-reviewed literature, the majority of the illustrations in this edition, especially those depicting surgical techniques, come from the hand of Rachid Idriss, the remarkably gifted son of the late Farouk Idriss. His clear depictions of anatomy and surgical technique are especially valuable to the congenital heart surgeon, whose three-dimensional understanding of the congenitally malformed heart is key to a successful surgical procedure.

Of course, an honest review of this new edition must include a few disappointments. A chapter on interventional cardiology was not included in this edition and not adequately substituted by the chapter on hybrid procedures. Interventional procedures are playing an increasing role in the management of pediatric cardiac patients, and those of us providing the surgical procedures must be knowledgeable of what is being provided by our colleagues and teammates. In addition, there were a few questions that I hoped would be answered but were not. What degree of subaortic stenosis in a patient with interrupted aortic arch and ventricular septal defect warrants the Yasui procedure? How does the surgeon decide between a modified Blalock-Taussig shunt and a right ventricle-to-pulmonary artery conduit for first stage palliation of hypoplastic left heart syndrome? Regarding the second question, I was surprised that the chapter authors, who were importantly involved in the single ventricle reconstruction trial, did not cite the 2010 report of the results of that trial or discuss its findings.

Overall, the strengths of the fourth edition far outweigh these relatively minor weaknesses. I think that this textbook belongs on the shelf of those of us who provide and teach pediatric heart surgery and should be frequently opened and read by those learning its science and craft. I extend my congratulations to the editors for another successful edition and compliment them on the decision to dedicate the royalties from its sale to the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education.