

## BOOK NOTES

Structured abstracts of information on newly published books, computer programs, selected Web sites, and other material are provided in this portion of Medical Writings. Not all items submitted by publishers are abstracted, but a listing of almost all material received can be found in the advertising pages of each issue. "Order phone" numbers can be used to place orders directly with publishers.

### Health Security for All: Dreams of Universal Health Care in America

Derickson A. 240 pages. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Univ Pr; 2005. ISBN 0801880815. Order at [www.press.jhu.edu](http://www.press.jhu.edu).

**Field of medicine:** Health policy, public health, and health care reform.

**Format:** Hardcover book.

**Audience:** Students of health policy, public health, and history of medicine and professionals or activists interested in health care reform.

**Purpose:** To provide an overview of efforts during the past century to achieve universal access to health care in the United States and to educate students of health care reform about the pitfalls and successes of these past efforts in the unique landscape of U.S. politics.

**Content:** This treatise is composed of 6 chapters that string together a continuous series of reformist attempts to achieve universal health care in the United States. An epilogue places the failed Clinton proposal of the mid-1990s in the context of other past efforts and reflects on future implications for reformist efforts.

**Highlights:** From Progressives to the New Deal to "post-Medicare" to the Clinton plan, 2 central themes emerge that help to explain the failure of past health care reform efforts to establish universal health care in the United States. First, at several crucial junctures, advocates refused to alter plans or compromise ideologies "in order to make the goal of universal health care more likely in the long run." Second, several reform campaigns relied too heavily on elite expertise without evoking a groundswell of support from millions of disadvantaged individuals who lack access to basic health care services. In the book's epilogue, the author suggests that it will be imperative for future reform efforts "to build a mass movement among the uninsured to reframe the policy debate and the political contest." To a student of health policy, this book provides an intriguing recount of health care reform's storied and often tumultuous past.

**Limitations:** Despite the author's success in distilling an enormous quantity of U.S. health care reform history into 165 pages of main text, the book is written at a high level of literacy, and a full understanding of the discourse requires at least a basic preexisting knowledge of the general principles of health care financing.

**Related reading:** Bodenheimer and Grumbach's *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach, Third Edition* (McGraw-Hill, 2002) is an excellent introduction to the principles of health policy, health care organization, and health care financing. Paul Starr's *The Social Transformation of American Medicine* (Basic Books, 1982) provides a wonderful account of the evolution of the practice, culture, and organization of U.S. medicine from the end of the colonial period to the 1970s.

**Reviewer:** Ronald T. Ackermann, MD, MPH, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Indiana.

### Oral Pharmacotherapy for Male Sexual Dysfunction: A Guide to Clinical Management

Broderick GA, ed. 457 pages. Totowa, NJ: Humana Pr; 2005. ISBN 158829451X. Order phone 973-256-1699.

**Field of medicine:** Internists, urologists, sex therapists, psychiatrists, cardiologists, endocrinologists, and gynecologists.

**Format:** Hardcover book.

**Audience:** Generalists who are on the front lines in diagnosing and treating erectile dysfunction, especially now that oral phosphodiesterase inhibitors are available, and urologists.

**Purpose:** Written by eminent scholars and researchers in the field of male sexual dysfunction, this book presents a detailed review of the state-of-the-art treatment of the disorder. It will also help primary care physicians to select the best choice in diagnosis and treatment for male sexual dysfunction.

**Content:** The title is deceiving. The book not only focuses on oral pharmacologic treatment for erectile dysfunction, it also includes transurethral, intracavernous, and topical therapies. Penile implants and vacuum device treatments, as well as interventions in behavior modification and alternative dietary supplements, are also covered. The book reviews penile anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology. The main emphasis of the book is erectile dysfunction as a primary organic problem or as it is related to other chronic medical conditions (that is, diabetes, depression, or anxiety). It also addresses erectile dysfunction in the cardiac patient and after prostatectomy. There is a chapter on when to refer the patient with erectile dysfunction to a specialist. The topic of rapid ejaculation is also addressed.

**Highlights:** The book features outstanding organization and a great clinical sequence of chapters congruent with the natural history and clinical approach to erectile dysfunction. It provides a chapter about female sexual dysfunction, focusing on epidemiology, pathophysiology, and current treatments.

**Limitations:** At times, some of the chapters become too dense and too wordy. There is a lack of summary graphics or tables that would facilitate rapid information retrieval for clinicians.

**Related reading:** A comprehensive and up-to-date book is Mulcahy's *Male Sexual Function: A Guide to Clinical Management* (Humana Pr, 2001). Also, Maurice's *Sexual Medicine in Primary Care* (Mosby, 1999) will give you a formal education in the diagnosis and management of sexual problems. In the same vein, also recommended is Wincze and Carey's *Sexual Dysfunction, Second Edition: A Guide for Assessment and Treatment* (Guilford Pr, 2001). One book that will give you tips for drugs implicated in sexual dysfunction is Seagraves and Balon's *Sexual Pharmacology: Fast Facts* (WW Norton, 2003).

**Reviewer:** William H. Salazar, MD, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia.