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Sudden infant death syndrome. Problems, progress and possibilities

**Roger W. Byard, Henry F. Krous, Arnold London, 2001, ISBN: 0-340-75917-8,
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In this book Byard and Krous publish a collection of 21 papers from different authors and groups. They selected the themes in a manner to include the most interesting topics in SIDS research and they did not forget that each case represents a tragedy for the parents and families. Therefore the different contributions give a broad overview of the problems regarding SIDS.

The book demonstrates the development of SIDS research from the first definition of the term SIDS in 1969 to our present view on the problem. This book is of special significance because the editors present SIDS as a phenomenon of interdisciplinary importance. Interesting aspects of pathophysiology, epidemiology and parental concerns are discussed as well as pathological features and medicolegal aspects. All the topics are reflected from the individual point of view of the different authors who are all experienced in SIDS research and in particular in

the special topic of their contribution. In addition to the scientific information which is given in the papers, the reader can experience the personal engagement of the authors for this topic and sometimes also the individual motivation which brought the authors to SIDS research. The editors show with their selection of papers how different the opinions could be, varying from well known and generally accepted hypotheses to arguments which are distant from the usual scientific perspective.

In the appendix the "International standardised autopsy protocol" and the "Sudden unexplained infant death investigation report form" are published which give practical advice for the death scene investigation and for performing the autopsy.

By editing this book Byard and Krous have achieved their aim to "provoke ... a critical debate in this important area" in an impressive manner.

This book can be recommended for all those who are interested in SIDS research or who would like to be informed on the state of art in this field, for forensic specialists as well as for paediatric pathologists, paediatricians and epidemiologists.

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