

BOOK REVIEW

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Review of: *Forensic Pathology Reviews*, Vol. 6

REFERENCE: Turk E, editor. *Forensic pathology reviews*, Vol. 6. New York, NY: Humana Press, 2011, 342 pp.

Edited by Dr. Elizabeth Turk, the book *Forensic Pathology Reviews*, Vol. 6, is the most recent installment of the ongoing Forensic Pathology Reviews series. Keeping in the spirit of the series, the text offers discussion of both relatively routine and controversial topics with emphasis on recent studies and publications. Authors of the various topics presented in the text hail from all corners of the forensic community, providing an interdisciplinary and international perspective on death investigation.

Topics in the current volume span the breadth of forensic investigation, from laboratory testing to mass casualty disaster. The text is divided into 15 chapters, beginning with two chapters dealing with deaths of infants and children. Organ and system-specific natural disease is then the next focus, with chapters detailing pulmonary, cardiac, endocrine, and infectious disease deaths. Various trauma-related deaths account for four of the chapters, including aviation and all-terrain vehicle crashes. But perhaps the most sobering discussion comes from the chapter detailing the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner investigation of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the mass casualty plan that was utilized for the specific situation. The final one-third

of the chapters deal with time of death estimation by various methods (entomology, tissue fluorescence, heat-flow, and protein markers) and toxicological implications of alcohol and drugs in transportation deaths.

The chapters are well-organized and generally well written, with information supported by slightly more than 100 accompanying figures, both black and white and color, and approximately 40 informational tables. As the title implies, much of the text serves as a review of current death investigation, offering occasional updates on current topic related research. The final chapters in the book related to time of death estimation are quite technical and are not likely to alter current investigation for most practitioners, despite the interesting research presented. The extensive references provided will serve as a ready resource for recent publications in which to expand one's knowledge base and support the conclusions drawn in daily practice. As the most recent publication in the series, this volume continues to provide the detailed critical reviews of specific topics for which this series has become recognized, while maintaining the standard set forth in previous volumes. Although not likely to replace classic forensic pathology texts for basic information, this series continues to contribute supplemental material worthy of the forensic pathologist's library. Pathologists wishing to stay current in forensic topics will benefit from this contribution to the forensic literature.

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