

Book Review

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Down Syndrome: Visions for the 21st Century. Edited by William I. Cohen, Lynn Nadel, and Myra E. Madnick. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 2002. Pp. 473. \$27.50.

This is a multiauthored book edited by three international experts on Down syndrome. The authors were presenters at a National Down Syndrome Society conference held July 27–29, 2000, in Washington, D.C.

The book is divided into 10 parts and is directed to the interests of parents as well as professionals. This is indeed a very challenging endeavor. The first four parts address self-determination, self-advocacy, advocacy, and the role of the family. The largest part of the book is on health and clinical care and covers such topics as advances in pediatric health and health care guidelines in Down syndrome, physical therapy, behavioral concerns, and life issues for adolescents and adults. The part of the book that is focused on research includes a detailed description of the sequence of chromosome 21, the origin and etiology of trisomy 21, the genetic origins of cognition and heart disease, and nonconventional therapies for Down syndrome. The last parts of the book, parts seven, eight, and nine, deal with psychosocial issues, education/inclusion, and communication, math and language skills. The final part

of the book addresses visions for the individual with Down syndrome and the reality and challenges for the future.

In general, the book does a very nice job of balancing important and technical information for parents, as well as providing the latest updates for professionals on health, clinical, and research issues on Down syndrome. It brings into focus issues on behavior and postsecondary education and updates an ongoing dialogue on speech/language and education of individuals with Down syndrome. It provides an excellent review of nonconventional therapies for Down syndrome.

In summary, this book is exceedingly valuable for a wide spectrum of individuals: parents, professionals, caregivers, and researchers on Down syndrome. It does a particularly good job in updating new knowledge on key topics pertinent to individuals with Down syndrome.

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