

Darko Richter: “Pediatric Emergency Room”. Zagreb: Medicinska naklada 2020.

This is a book that for the first time in a century-long history of pediatrics in Croatia speaks directly to emergency room physicians. Although the emergency room comes into existence simultaneously with the birth of any pediatric department or clinic, covering 24 hours 7 days a week, and precedes the establishment of any subspecialist division, it seems to be taken for granted and professionally and scientifically neglected. The fortunes had it that the author of this book, a subspecialist of pediatric allergy and clinical immunology, the founder and first president of the Section on Allergy and Clinical Immunology of the Croatian Pediatric Society, embarked on the adventure of taking up the engagement in the pediatric emergency room of the University Hospital Center Zagreb at the top of his career. From the beginnings of his pediatric career in 1980 until his retirement in 2020, he had accumulated the experience of emergency room duties in three pediatric departments in Zagreb, the founding of the first pediatric intensive care unit in 1989, and regular duties in the neonatal intensive care unit. Has there been anyone more qualified to take up the job in the emergency room as a routine

task following the retirement of its former chief? Nevertheless, he told me that only after the full engagement in the emergency room he became aware of the complexity and hardships of this particular activity, which is equally challenging to university career-oriented and practice-oriented physicians. In the foreword, which many prefer to skip, he quotes these significant words: “When I started working in the emergency room in the fall of 2015 the challenges were unexpected, new and in stark contrast to the comfortable cool shade of the subspecialist outpatient consultations, day care or inpatient care.” This gave rise to the author’s reaction that ended up in the publication of this handbook dedicated to the work of the emergency room physician. The handbook “Pediatric Emergency Room” is devoted to all the physicians who work in a pediatric emergency room in hospitals, or the primary care, or the ambulance cars, or in the emergency care establishments. It encompasses 184 pages, 11 tables, and 19 figures. It is not comprehensive nor is it organized as a classical textbook. It reports the situations and the events as they present in the emergency room and introduces the reader to the diagnostic and therapeutic solutions. This handbook is best read all in one breath, but for those who cannot spare the time or find a tranquil environment to do it, there are detailed Contents, a precise Index, taxative therapeutic “recipes”, diagnostic algorithms, tables, and figures.

To conclude, I shall cite some of the reactions that accompanied the appearance of this handbook on Facebook: “It was cool working with him in the ER”, “You’ve got everything inside! He gives answers exactly to the key problems that we encounter daily, and even laymen can understand quite a bit ... plus, he had good reviewers ...” (Professor G. Tešović, MD, Ph.D. and Bojana Radulović, MD, Ph.D., FEBEM).

The layout and format make this handbook an excellent companion to the hand, eye, and pocket.

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