
Cotes' Lung Function

Seventh Edition

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WILEY Blackwell

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Preface

The first edition of *Lung Function* was published in 1965, more than 50 years ago. It was written by John Cotes and reflected his unique knowledge of respiratory physiology and his commitment to the use of lung function tests in clinical medicine. The book was a runaway success. All respiratory physicians and physiologists recognised it as the leading work in the field and there can have been few lung function laboratories in which it was unknown. Further editions followed, the sixth appearing in 2006. By then John was in his ninth decade and was assisted in producing the book by D J Chinn and M R Miller. In about 2012 John, now approaching his tenth decade, began to think about the seventh edition. He suggested that the new edition should be produced by a team of editors who should invite leading authorities in the field to contribute individual chapters. It was intended that John would be closely involved with the work. An editorial board was assembled and work began. Sadly John Cotes died in 2018 before the new edition was completed.

Taking over a book that has been the leading work in its field and, especially, one that so closely reflected the approach and thinking of its original author has been a challenging task. The new edition is very different from earlier editions in that it is a multi-author text with the advantages and disadvantages which inevitably attend such an approach. More than 30 experts have contributed to the new edition. Some chapters have been allowed to stand unchanged from the sixth edition: need revision in further editions but, for now, they remain both valuable and irreplaceable. Others have been revised or rewritten.

Who is this book for? This simple question is less easy to answer now than it would have been in 1965. Then, the classical approach to lung function taken by John was 'cutting edge'; now, the applications of molecular biology hold that position, and lung function laboratories are fewer than they were. We recognise the importance of new developments in our field but hold fast to our belief that pulmonology, or respiratory medicine, is and must be based on a clear understanding of how gases are handled by the lung, how gases move across the air–blood barrier, and how these processes can be measured. Thus we think the classical approach to lung function, the approach that John Cotes did so much to encourage, remains indispensable in modern medical practice. It is our hope that this new edition will be consulted, if not read cover to cover, by all involved in respiratory research and clinical care, and, in particular, by trainees in respiratory medicine and clinical respiratory physiology.

Producing this new edition has been a long process: we would like to thank our authors as well as Yagalakshmi Mohanakrishnan, Baskar Anandraj, Anglea Cohen, and James Schultz at our publisher, Wiley, and our copy-editor, Lindsey Williams, for their enthusiasm and their patience.

We hope that John would have been pleased with our efforts and we dedicate this new edition, to be entitled *Cotes' Lung Function*, to his memory.

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