

Preface

The first ARTP Handbook was published in 1999 after a 10-year gestation. The revised “Part One” was published four years later in 2003, and it is a mark of the dedication and hard work of the contributors that this ARTP Handbook “Part Two” has been published within three years of being commissioned.

However, perhaps the last three years has witnessed the most remarkable changes in healthcare delivery and not least in the arena of physiological diagnostics. Now lung function measurements, in their broadest sense, are being delivered by the whole of the multi-disciplinary respiratory team in both primary and secondary care. The delivery of these clinical services has required an expansion in training and education, but rarely have there been textbooks to support this demand in knowledge at the appropriate level.

Book Two advances and expands some of the themes in Book One, but also adds some new areas that will be of interest to all those involved in the interpretation and measurement of lung function tests.

The first Editor, Professor Sue Hill, Chief Scientific Officer, DoH, always envisaged that the original Handbook would be a “template to build upon in the future” and this new volume has certainly expanded that dream and produced a tangible product from many decades of ARTP work.

There will undoubtedly be some factual errors or new information that may require future modification and we would welcome feedback from readers for future editions of the book (www.artp.org.uk).

It is very fitting that in ARTP’s 30th Anniversary year we are at last able to offer two full textbooks for our trainee healthcare scientists to support their degree courses for the future. We hope that the knowledge in this volume will ultimately lead to better patient care and diagnosis, and will help provide a new generation of qualified and competent respiratory physiologists for the next 30 years.

Dr Brendan G Cooper
Honorary Chairman, ARTP
Consultant Clinical Scientist

Foreword

The second volume of this important enterprise complements and expands on the first volume published in 2003. The ARTP, and in particular the editors and contributors to this project, are to be congratulated on bringing it to fruition.

The main aim of the work is to act as source material for students completing a BSc in Respiratory Physiology. These are the clinical physiologists and scientists who will in future be responsible for running clinical Lung Function Laboratories, and thus will represent a cornerstone of the broad specialty of Respiratory Medicine. Understanding the principles and practice outlined here is fundamental to their future careers. Medical trainees in the specialty would also benefit greatly from using this manual. Unfortunately they seem to be exposed to less and less clinical physiology as other topics on the medical curriculum absorb more of their time. Consequently the respiratory clinicians of the future will be even more dependent on well trained clinical physiologists

Professor John Gibson
President British Thoracic Society