The purpose of this book is to provide information that is not readily available in standard textbooks. Cases are presented via a problem-oriented approach with an opportunity for the reader to consider a differential diagnosis and formulate a plan. There is a subsequent revelation of the diagnosis, discussion, clinical pearls and two to three key references. The targeted audience appears to be students at all levels, but most particularly residents in internal medicine. The 100 clinical cases in the book represent some of the most interesting and challenging patients presented at morning report. I have read all the cases, although in varying degrees of detail. They represent the wide spectrum of general internal medicine and although perhaps a few of the cases focus more on primary care, the majority is very typical of the kinds of patients seen in the emergency room of my Canadian tertiary care teaching hospital. The presentation is in a fairly standard format which is respected throughout the cases, and is at a high level, with a significant amount of detail presented to challenge a variety of learners. The photographs of pertinent laboratory or clinical findings are clear and illustrate the cases well.

I have a few minor complaints. This being an American book, none of the laboratory data is presented using SI units. There are no normal ranges for many of the tests and I believe it would have made it somewhat easier to read the book if there had been a table of normal values appended. In case 77, the use of old-fashioned thyroid tests is hard for those of us who have now converted to using a high sensitivity thyroid-stimulating hormone assay for most of our thyroid screening. Case 59, a patient with diabetic gastroparesis, was treated with erythromycin. Certainly in Canada I believe we would typically use domperidone or perhaps cisapride, at least initially, because of concerns of the long term effect of erythromycin and its gastric intolerance.

Overall I found this book to produce a challenging set of cases covering the wide variety of internal medicine. I particularly enjoyed ones presenting ethical dilemmas. I highly recommend this book for residents in internal medicine programs and for consultants as a challenge to maintain their skills in this ever-changing field.