Challenging Cases in Allergy and Immunology, edited by Massoud Mahmoudi, 345 pp, with illus, \$99, Totowa, NJ, Humana Press (973-256-1699), 2009, ISBN 978-1-60327-442-5

Type and Scope of Book: A multiauthored, comprehensive collection of case-study format-based chapters that cover a variety of aspects of allergy and immunology.

Contents: This book strives to stimulate the thought processes of all types of health care professionals through noteworthy cases involving allergy and immunology. Each of the 20 chapters opens with an abstract and keywords, which provide a nice summary of each chapter's topic. The cases are presented, one at a time, with pertinent clinical history and physical examination findings. Most chapters follow this format, with a paragraph dedicated to developing a differential diagnosis, noting any additional assessments, and explaining why the authors chose the specific diagnosis. All chapters then have a discussion, conclusion, and questions related to the chapter topic.

Strengths: The cases are interesting, illustrate the more challenging cases encountered in an allergy and immunology practice, and demonstrate the wide variety of potential patients in such a practice.

Deficiencies: The format of some of the chapters is inconsistent. Some of the questions at the end of the chapters had explanations for the answers to the questions and others did not.

Recommended Readership: Health care professionals interested and/or involved in treating patients with allergic and immunologic diseases.

Overall Grading: ★★★★★

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Grading Key

★★★★★ = *outstanding*; ★★★★ = *excellent*; ★★★ = *good*; ★★ = *fair*; ★ = *poor*.