

Essential anesthesia: from science to practice

TY Euliano, JS Gravenstein

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The introduction to Euliano and Gravenstein's *Essential Anesthesia* from the Cambridge University Press provides "a very short history of anesthesia" with just the right amount and substance of information to stir the interest of the curious reader, and sets the tone for this useful and concise introduction to the specialty. The book is divided into three comprehensive sections: Clinical Management, Applied Physiology and Pharmacology, and Clinical Cases. The latter, focusing on the delivery of anaesthesia—from conscious sedation and monitored anaesthesia care, through local and regional anaesthesia, to general and emergency anaesthesia—are particularly illustrative for novices. The only point of contention is that the section on Applied Physiology and Pharmacology should probably have preceded that on Clinical Management in keeping with the book's

subtitle: "From Science to Practice".

In their Preface, the authors declare that this primer "is a concise, accessible introduction to the essentials of anesthesia suitable for medical students, junior doctors and all operating theater staff." In this respect the authors have more than succeeded.

DC Chung, MD, FHKAM (Anaesthesiology)

Kai Chong Tong Clinical Skills Learning Centre and Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Prince of Wales Hospital

Shatin, Hong Kong