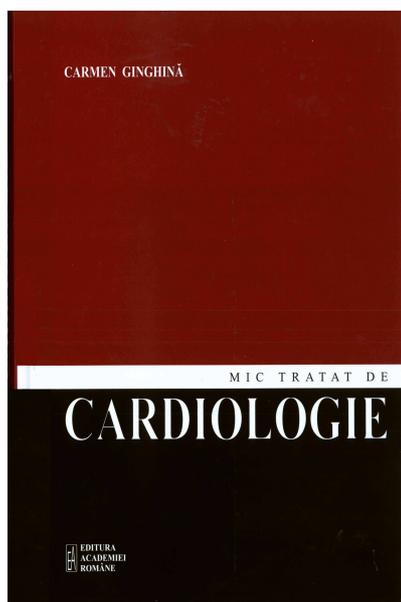


New medical books

„MIC TRATAT DE CARDIOLOGIE”

Author: CARMEN GINGHINĂ

Publishing House of Academy, Bucharest, 2010



Although time passing, technological developments, the apparent exit from the Gutenberg galaxy and entry in an area of visual dominance could have pushed away the written pages - medical literature continues to occupy a central place on the scale of values of the medical world. Through their own education - doctors perceive the textbooks as possible keys for their professional existence.

In this context the newly published Romanian monograph "Textbook of Cardiology" edited by Carmen Ginghina (Romanian Academy Publishing House) poses a particular interest.

The book brings together elements of *classical* structure with a *modern* approach.

In a *classic*, almost ultra-conservative approach, the anatomy and physiology of the cardio-vascular system is included together with the presentation of the detailed clinical evaluation of the cardiac patient,

the paraclinical evaluation, the presentation of cardiovascular diseases and the description of cardiac involvement in other pathological conditions. Classic is also the constant findings of definitions (detailed) and the presence of short "dictionary of terms" at the beginning of the chapters with subjects more distant to the clinical cardiologist.

The *modern* view is represented by the adopted approach (eg. anatomical images are shown along with images obtained through echocardiography, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, coronary angiography), the presence of chapters focusing on genetics (for cardiologists!) and epidemiology of cardiovascular diseases (with data from Romania), the attention towards cardiac biomarkers, the chapter dedicated to the choice of method of evaluation. Modern is also the continuous reference to the guidelines - predominantly the European ones and frequently the American ones (as unique recent

guidelines for some subjects or difference of opinions from the European ones) or even national guidelines (Canadian, British) when they are of particular interest.

The most consistent part of the book includes the description of the main cardiovascular diseases; it includes up to date information and reference data (well-known monographs, articles) filtered through the experience of the authors. This section contains 51 case reports (short ones - only one page) with comments that complete the topic in an attractive manner. All cases are "experienced" by the authors and the atmosphere of "real life" is a plus for the publication.

It is a book full of life which includes *dilemmas and certainties*. *Dilemmas* are inherent to the trends of modern cardiology to promote guided, preformed medical decisions. The Greek term dilemma (the main source for the current international word) is composed of *di* – "two or twice" and *lemma* – "premise". However, in cardiology - and the book illustrates this - we are facing more than two possibilities. Dilemmas arise in the book not only as a matter of logic and reasoning but also as an act of reflection in particular cases. *Certainties* derive from the immutable truths of clinical cardiology tested during time, from the certitude of modern laboratory data and the confidence in medical common sense.

The monograph is clearly written, deliberately ordered and the explanations are often accompanied by drawings and diagrams that facilitate the understanding.

The "visible" authors of this book are mainly cardiologists from the Cardiology Clinic of the Institute for Emergency in Cardiovascular Disorders „Prof. C.C. Iliescu”, most of them with academic background, and in addition a distinguished anatomist and experts in medical imaging. Other cardiologists, radiologists, surgeons, pathologists are "non-visible" contributors on the list of authors, but cited in the reference list of each chapter.

The book continues the tradition of Cardiology Clinic ASCAR/ FUNDENI for which the publication of textbooks and manuals appears a "*modus vivendi*" promoted over the time by all the mentors. In fact, Professor Carmen Gînghină says in the preface of the book: "We have followed the message of our mentors: spoken language can be brilliant but short-lived in the communication of scientific ideas, while the written page implies performance and requires rigour and depth of understanding from both author and reader".

Professor Tiberiu Nanea

Bucharest, 2011