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The second edition of Mechanical Ventilation is an excellent introductory text for students of critical care, particularly respiratory therapists, critical care nurses who wish to expand their understanding of mechanical ventilation, and the busy academic provider who needs a quick reference on the fundamentals of mechanical ventilation for board review or from which to generate core teaching materials for trainees. Its greatest strengths are its choice of material, its figures and tables, and its concise, understandable reviews of complex technical aspects of mechanical ventilation, pulmonary physiology, and the potentially confusing literature on clinical applications. This book will become part of our core reading for residency training, and I highly recommended it.Respiratory Care February 2009