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Book Reviews: Technical Books Section

(Page 12 a - Review by Jason Payne-James, UK)



FEATURED BOOK

GOOD BASIC OVERVIEW OF THE SUBJECTS COVERED

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Rating : 8.0
★★★★★★★★★
(9/5)

Combat medicine - Basic and Clinical Research in Military, Trauma, and Emergency Medicine, 1st Edition, *Edited by* George C. Tsokos and James L. Atkins. Hardcover 6" x 9".
Humana Press Inc., 999 Riverview Drive, Suite 208, Totowa, New Jersey 07512; Publication Date July, 2003. xii + 426 pages, ISBN 1-58829-070-0 (acid-free Paper). E-ISBN 1-59259-407-7. Price $125.00

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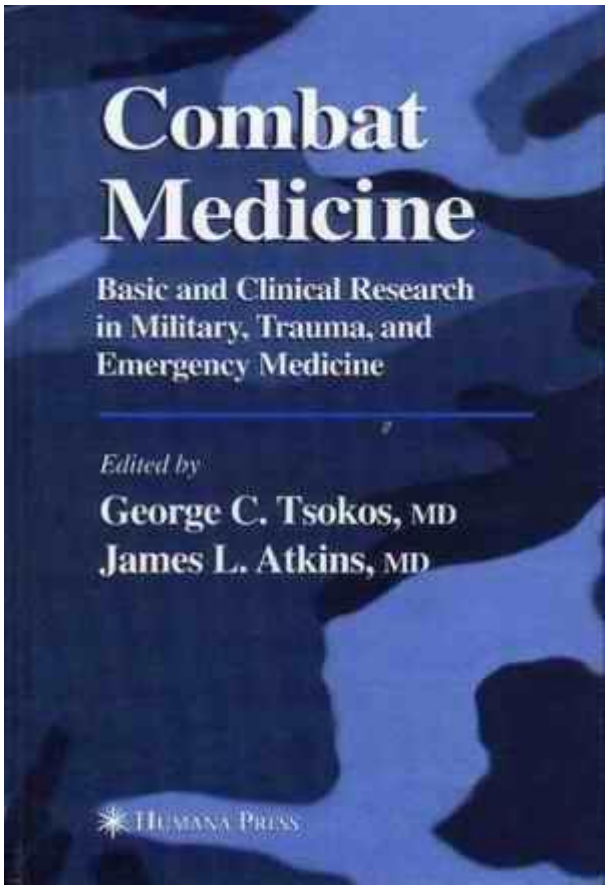
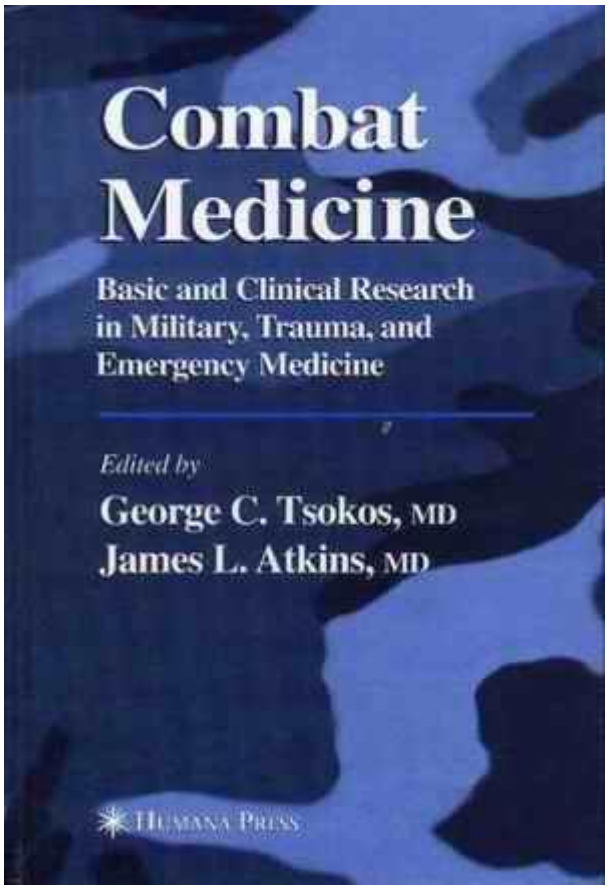


Despite its rather exciting title, this book is not one that is focussed - as one might think - on clinical aspects of battlefield injury - and so those buying this book hoping to see dramatic figures and treatment pathways for such injury will be disappointed.

There are no illustrations and it is not until the reader understands who the book is for, and what it is for that its purpose becomes clear. The stated aim of this book is for it 'to be a concise manual for the young clinical or basic investigator who is studying organ injury following trauma or toxic infectious assaults either in an urban or battlefield setting, with an emphasis on current research issues in emergency and military medicine'.

View this book on Amazon

The book is divided into two Sections - 'Basic Mechanisms' and 'Current Concepts' and within these sections explores injury and wound healing at cellular, biochemical and physiological levels. The first section has particularly good chapters on complement inhibitors in trauma, immune system and infections, whilst the second chapter has excellent chapters on hemorrhagic shock and resuscitation and ischemia/reperfusion injury.



"...Overall the book will provide a good basic overview of the subjects covered ... For those wanting to undertake research based in military/combat medicine this book will act as a good background..."

The chapter on nitric oxide is very dense and it is interesting to note that there appear to be only two references after 1999 - both in 2000 and both chapters/reviews of which the chapter authors were also authors. In such a rapidly moving field it seems unlikely that there has been no original research published since 1999! I would also question the wisdom of not having a chapter on the broad subject of anti-oxidants - a subject which is of huge research relevance at present. And this may reflect the problem of having a fairly limited geographical scope of authors. Of 28 listed authors - 17 have affiliations with various departments/universities in Bethesda. No author originates from outside North America.

Overall the book will provide a good basic overview of the subjects covered - but it is questionable in research fields that are rapidly changing that all chapters are totally up to date. For those wanting to undertake research based in military/combat medicine this book will act as a good background - but one gets the sense that the chapters were representative of current research at the time they were written, but they have been perhaps compromised by the length of time taken to publish.

-Jason Payne James
Dr. Jason Payne James is on the editorial board of Anil Aggrawal's Internet Journal of Forensic Medicine



and Toxicology. Click image to have more information about him.

Review 1 by Jason Payne-James, UK

Review 2 by Benjamin Swift, UK

Review 3 by Dr. Puneet Setia of India and Dr. Avneesh Gupta of USA

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