Environmental Health, Third Edition
By Dade W. Moeller
Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005. 606 pp. ISBN: 0-674-01494-4, $65 cloth

At least once a week, I need a brief account of an environmental health area that falls outside my specialty. At those times, I usually am more likely to find what I need in Moeller’s second edition (1997) than in any of my other reference books. This third edition maintains the strengths of the two earlier editions: brief and clear presentations and broad coverage of environmental health.

This edition contains 20 chapters. It begins with an overview and traditional chapters on toxicology and epidemiology. These three are followed by reviews of water, air, and solid waste. About halfway through the 600-page book, the chapters begin to incorporate topics that some environmental health volumes do not cover, such as rodents and insects, food, injury control, environmental economics and law, risk assessment, standards and monitoring, energy, and disasters. A sizeable portion of this material is new or updated for this third edition. For example, you will find new or redone sections on indoor air quality, environmental justice, endangered species, multiple chemical sensitivities, electromagnetic radiation, disasters, and ergonomics. In other words, this book is environmental health in the broadest sense of the word: It is not just pollution control. At the end of each chapter, the author adds an interesting “general outlook” section that summarizes his views of the future.

Two of the most useful chapters are those on electromagnetic radiation and environmental law. The former begins with a description of the electromagnetic spectrum and uses that as a springboard to differentiate among risks associated with different forms of radiation. The chapter briefly reviews highly amplified risks about automobile traffic radar and cell phones and about electromagnetic fields from overhead lines. It also presents useful sections about radon, medical and dental applications, and nuclear materials from electricity-generating stations and nuclear weapons testing. The overall goal is to help readers understand that not all radiation is to be equally dreaded and that some of the most feared radioactive elements are less dangerous than their less feared counterparts. The chapter on environmental law is helpful because the author tries hard to be comprehensive. Moeller offers lists of laws, brief comments on what the laws do and do not accomplish, the trajectory of laws during the last century, and their implementation. This is followed immediately by a chapter on environmental standards that is a good sequel to the law chapter.

Every textbook has limitations. The most obvious is that it takes so long to write one that some of the material is bound to be out of date by the time the book is published. Hence, I would like to have seen more about globalization, pollution prevention, damages to natural resources, terrorism, and life-cycle costs than this edition offers. The author does not ignore these; they are mentioned here and there in the book, but not to the extent needed.

If I have a problem with the book, it is the failure to present a separate chapter on risk perception. I realize that environmental scientists want to operate on the premise that decisions are made using rational thinking processes based on scientific evidence. Unfortunately, as a person who has been studying environmental policy for over 30 years, I say unequivocally that risk perception, trust, and mental models of risk have a major impact on environmental health policies. A chapter needs to be added that includes why people dread some hazards (nuclear weapons, terrorism, handguns) and some of the ways this is manipulated, whereas other hazards are much more tolerable to the public and to elected officials (tobacco, alcohol). Despite this critique, I really like this book, I use it myself, and I will use it in my senior-level undergraduate environmental health course.

MICHAEL GREENBERG

Michael Greenberg is professor and associate dean of the school at the E.J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University. His research and teaching focus on environmental health policy; much of it is on clean-up and reuse of contaminated sites in distressed neighborhoods.

Announcements

Asbestos and Fire
Rachel Matusev Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2005. 288 pp. ISBN: 0-8135-3575-1, $34.95

Chemical Genomics: Reviews and Protocols
Edward D. Zanders Totowa, NJ: Humana Press, Inc., 2005. 300 pp. ISBN: 1-58829-399-8, $110

Computational Genetics and Genomics: Tools for Understanding Disease
Gary Felty Totowa, NJ: Humana Press, Inc., 2005. 286 pp. ISBN: 1-58829-187-1, $125

Epigenetics
Bruce Stillman, ed. Woodbury, NY: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 2005. 520 pp. ISBN: 0-87969-729-6, $295

Essential Mathematics and Statistics for Science
Graham Carroll Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2005. 344 pp. ISBN: 0-470-02228-0, $115.50

EU Environmental Law
Maria Lee Oxford, UK: Hart Publishing, 2005. 270 pp. ISBN: 1-84113-410-4, $50

Handbook of Genome Research: Genomics, Proteomics, Metabolomics, Bioinformatics, Ethical and Legal Issues
Christoph W. Sensen Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2005. 614 pp. ISBN: 0-471-44476-6, $155

Health Effects of Transport-Related Air Pollution
M. Krzyzanowski, B. Kuenzli, J. Schneider Geneva: World Health Organization, 2005. 275 pp. ISBN: 92-890-1373-7, $54

Microarrays in Clinical Diagnostics
Thomas O. Jens, Paula Fontana Totowa, NJ: Humana Press, Inc., 2005. 300 pp. ISBN: 1-58829-394-7, $135

National Environmental Accounting: Bridging the Gap Between Ecology and Economy
Jay E. Hecht Waisha, CA: DCRF Press, 2005. 240 pp. ISBN: 1-898153-93-7, $60

Pharmacogenomics: Methods and Applications
Pedroso Innocenti Hoboken, NJ: Humana Press, Inc., 2005. 250 pp. ISBN: 1-58829-440-4, $125

Proteomics in Cancer Research
Daniel C. Lieth, Emanuel P. Perriomon, Lance A. Lattes Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2005. 202 pp. ISBN: 0-471-44476-6, $150

Rational Choice and Judgment: Decision Analysis for the Decider
Ron Brown Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2005. 247 pp. ISBN: 0-471-20237-1, $79.95

Sprawl Costs: Economic Impacts of Unchecked Development
Robert Ruscitti, Anthony Dwyer, Sahar Mukherji Washington, DC: Island Press, 2005. 224 pp. ISBN: 1-55963-530-4, $18.75

Sustainable Energy: Choosing among Options
Jefferson W. Teter, Elizabeth M. Drake, Michael J. Driscoll, Michael W. Golay, William A. Peters Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2005. 872 pp. ISBN: 0-262-20153-5, $78

The Evolution of the Genome
T. Gregory Cunningham Burlington, MA: Elsevier, 2005. 768 pp. ISBN: 0-12-301463-8, $69.95

The Oncogenomics Handbook
William J. Lathochelle, Richard A. Shimkets Totowa, NJ: Humana Press, Inc., 2005. 752 pp. ISBN: 1-58829-343-2, $175

The Proteomics Protocols Handbook
John M. Walker Totowa, NJ: Humana Press, Inc., 2005. 1,016 pp. ISBN: 1-58829-343-2, $175

Water Quality Hazards and Dispersion of Pollutants
Wlodzimierz Czernuszenko, Pawel Rowinski New York: Springer-Verlag, 2005. 250 pp. ISBN: 3-540-23521-0, $139

The World Health Report 2005
World Health Organization Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization Press, 2005. 252 pp. ISBN: 92-4-156290-0, $36

The World Health Report 2005
World Health Organization Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization Press, 2005. 252 pp. ISBN: 92-4-156290-0, $36