**Book Review**

**Computers in Medicine : Progress in Medical Informatics**

RD Lele

Tata McGraw Hill Publ. 2005 pages 650 Price Rs. 495


His early book, Computers in Medicine (1988) like all of his other books was the first of its kind in India and was a great success as evidenced by 8 reprints in the next decade. This new ‘avatar’ is 400 pages bigger than the first one and incorporates all the progress in Medical Informatics in the last decade as reflected in the following 24 chapters:

2. Understanding Computer Basics.
3. Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning and Machine Translation.
4. Medicine and The Internet.
7. Computer in Clinical Laboratory.
9. Neurocomputers and ANNs.
11. Hospital Information System.
13. Computerized Patient Record.
16. Computer in the Care of Critically Ill.
17. Computer Aids for the Handicapped.

Thus, this book will serve as a single source reference to Medical Informatics. In the words of Dr. RA Mashelkar*, who has written the foreword –

"Every one from a specialist to a generalist will find the book readable. I am amazed at Dr. Lele’s ability at observation, analysis and synthesis. The topics covered in this book are so diverse and yet he has shown the uncanny ability to grasp them and provide us with deep insights. Information is available to everyone but it is the insight that matters. Dr. Lele’s phenomenal ability to make an intelligent and incisive inquiry is evident in every chapter. The true beneficiary of this inquiring mind is the reader.

The book could not have appeared at a more opportune time. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) in USA in its 2003 publication: ‘Crossing the quality chasm : A New Health System for the 21st Century’, has emphasized the crucial role for information technology in ensuring high quality care. Dr. Lele’s book provides a road map for physicians to proceed on, to effectively use IT to achieve the ultimate goal of high quality care for every individual.”

*FRS, Director General CSIR, and Secretary to Govt. of India, Dept. of Sci. and Industrial Research

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**Critical Care Medicine**

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Richard M Leach, James T Sylvester, Jeremy PT Ward

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Opp. Wadia Children’s Hospital, Parel, Mumbai – 400 012

Tel: 24165274/24131362; Fax: 24130877; Email: prachint@bom7.vsnl.net.in

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