

response in nonhuman primates is determined by hormones and that nonhuman primates do not experience orgasm (Lloyd covers this subject in detail). Altogether there are eight assumptions that she believes to have been shown to be categorically false by evidence that researchers ignore or contradict. This is followed by a philosophical review of adaptationism, especially its strong version ('ardent adaptation'). In his critique mentioned

above, Barash lustily identified himself as an ardent adaptationist. Lloyd's no-compromise demolition is likely to stir even lacklustre adaptationists to the spirit of defence. Such readers may wish to consult the Barash–Lloyd exchange.

Most Neo-Darwinians consider the Gould–Lewontin criticism of adaptationism to be thoroughly rebutted and decidedly stale. I modestly suggest, however, that

Lloyd is an independent voice who warrants careful attention.

Note

David Barash's review, 'Let a thousand orgasms bloom!' and Lloyd's response can be found at <http://mypage.iu.edu/%7Eealloyd/BarashReview.htm>

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Multiple Pregnancy: Epidemiology, Gestation, and Perinatal Outcome

Editors: Isaac Blickstein and Louis G. Keith

(2005). *Taylor and Francis (Abingdon)*, 2nd ed., 943 pp, US\$169.95, ISBN 1-84214-239-9.

This book aims to provide a comprehensive, international view of all aspects of multiple pregnancy and births in a way relevant to a wide range of readers. Such an ambitious challenge could easily fail to be met, but the text is imbued by the enthusiasm and knowledge of an international, multidisciplinary cast of authors under the editorship of two authors who have spent both a professional lifetime, and in the case of one of the authors who is a twin, a personal lifetime fascinated by all aspects of multiples. This is a truly international text, written by leading academics, practitioners and parents all driven by a love of the topic. It is a truly remarkable achievement. The book is almost unrelated to the first edition which was written before the explosion in the numbers of multiple births occasioned by artificial reproductive technology (ART) and the concurrent major improvements in fetal assessment and management.

Just who is the readership intended to be and are you one of them? The range of topics covered is very comprehensive. With 110 chapters written by over 80 authors one might expect some duplication and lack of clarity. The chapters are arranged in 11 sections which provide a clear and logical structure and each chapter is relatively short and self-contained and provides a clear view of any particular topic. The editorial process has been kept reasonably tight so that there is a uniform feel and style to the book. The index is well constructed and helps in this process of finding information, possibly in multiple sections. Where there are multiple chapters on the one topic, which particularly occurs in section 1 on epidemiology, it is clear that the topic is being approached from different parts of the world and the reader has a choice of selecting information most relevant to their interests. Geographic diversity has been celebrated by the

presentation of short chapters rather than attempting to synthesize an international view into a single long chapter. This is a strength of the book.

The book brings together disparate data sources. An international league table showing differences in the mean number of embryos transferred (range 1.9 to 3.46) emphasizes data presented in individual chapters. Superb text and photographs on placentation, examination and special cases strip away much of the mystery the novice clinician is faced with. These chapters are complemented with a later section on fetal management of clinical conditions related to placentation. Only occasionally are there annoyances which occur only when the book is read from cover to cover. Chapter 28 and 32 duplicated much of Chapter 15. Why is Chapter 34 'Trends in malformation' not with the basic epidemiology section earlier in the book? The text is up to date with references. Examples are the inclusion of the 2003 combined

Statement of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology/American Academy of Pediatrics on cerebral palsy (Chapter 98) and the inclusion of a 2004 reference on fetal fibronectin in an addendum to Chapter 55. The emphasis on evidence-based practice is variable. Some chapters give it great prominence whereas others such as Chapter 49 'Routine antenatal care' and Chapter 50 'Triplet care' provide recommendations and protocols based on little evidence. The strong international perspective provides both strengths and weaknesses. The role of the midwife in Sweden (Chapter 85) will be of direct relevance only to Sweden but does educate the interested reader on the central issues that are to be dealt with in by any health service provider for this group with specialized needs. Likewise the section on ethics takes into account some of the major cultural and religious differences in the world.

The trivia quiz devotee should find the answer to every question on multiple pregnancy. The epidemiologist is very well provided

for. Clinicians are well catered for and only the more basic or the very highly specialized management approaches to the high risk fetus might require reference to other texts. The geneticist is well provided for and only very specialized areas of endeavor are outside the scope of the book. Topical matters such as epigenetics receive good coverage. Researchers in general have been well catered for. The neonatologist will find plenty of detail. Models of care and recommendations for centralization of care and attention to the needs of parents and their multiples as they grow is emphasized. This strength will be of particular relevance to midwives, neonatal nurses, psychologists and allied health practitioners involved in the care of multiples. The interested lay reader will find the style and layout easy to access. A colleague who is a parent of twins found the book accessible and fascinating with answers to questions that had been on her mind for years.

The book has a clear purpose and function for many readers from many disciplines. It brings a clear

focus to the topic of multiple pregnancy and highlights the shortcomings of isolated efforts (e.g., see pp. 45–46) to improve outcomes for multiple pregnancy. It provides instead a comprehensive resource that puts an emphasis on a collaborative and holistic approach to improve outcomes for multiples.

The book is a truly remarkable, comprehensive, up-to-date and readable book that will appeal to a wide range of readers from the interested lay reader through the researcher to the subspecialist involved in the many aspects of care of the multiple. Its scope and depth make it ideal as the single book on the bookshelf of anyone from geneticist, epidemiologist, researcher, obstetrician, maternal fetal medicine specialist, neonatologist, paediatrician, nurse, psychologist and parent who has an interest in multiples.

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