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To my family and my past, current, and future students, from whom I continue
to draw enthusiasm and inspiration.

— CLS

To my wife, Laurel, as well as my fellow educators and respiratory therapists,
who encouraged me to pursue this text and inspired me
towards its completion.

— AJH

To my family, friends, and the profession, as they are the motivation for all I do,
and I thank them for that every day.

— LMS
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Preface

As the editors were preparing this text, colleagues often would ask us if another respiratory therapy exam review book was really needed. Our reply was “not another book, but a different one.” With our combined experience of over 100 years in preparing students and graduates for the NBRC exams, we have come to realize that “book knowledge” alone does not assure a passing score. Over time, we have observed that the candidates most likely to do well on these tests are those who know exactly what and how to study, and who are confident in their test-taking abilities. Our goal is to share with all respiratory therapy students and graduates this basic formula: to provide you with the same test knowledge, skills, and strategies that successful candidates use to score highly on the CRT exam.

What makes this book fundamentally different is its approach. First, unlike many other review books, this one focuses your attention exclusively on the CRT exam content. Each topical chapter corresponds exactly to a specific content area covered on the current exam. This approach lets you concentrate on the specific knowledge and skills tested in each area, at the levels set by the NBRC for that specific content. Moreover, to distill this content down to what you absolutely need to know, we have formatted much of the book content using simple outlines and tables with a minimum of long-winded narrative.

Second, we provide you with a tried-and-true plan for success. Our plan is based on the decades of experience we have in successfully helping thousands of candidates pass the CRT exam. The basic strategy involves a minimum of 6–8 weeks of preparation, whereby you proceed systematically through each chapter of the text, using both a pre- and post-test to assess your knowledge and confirm its mastery. The plan culminates with you taking and passing a mock CRT-like exam (the chapter post-tests and mock exam are provided on the CD).

Third, we provide key test-taking guidance, designed specifically to allay anxiety, build confidence, and boost your CRT exam scores. Besides providing a full chapter on test-taking techniques, every topical chapter in the text includes critical lists of both common testing errors and the correct approaches you should always take in selected clinical problems or scenarios. Also, you can build additional confidence by repeating the practice tests that draw on our 800+ question item pool.

We also provide special guidance for those who heretofore have been unsuccessful in achieving their goal of becoming a Certified Respiratory Therapist. First, in every topical chapter we identify the latest content that the NBRC recently added to its 2009 CRT exam matrix. Given that there are over 40 new topical areas on the exam, no one should consider retaking this test without full knowledge of these important changes. Second, because our content parallels the CRT exam, you can easily focus you preparation for retesting on just those specific topics where you previously did poorly.

Lastly, for those needing additional personal support beyond what the book provides, we provide access to some important supplemental resources. In addition to the testing software on the CD, you will find a wealth of exam-related World Wide Web resources. The editors and authors have sought out, evaluated, and selected the very best respiratory care resources on the Internet and organized them for you based on the NBRC matrix. In this manner, if you need to review a specific content area, you can simply select the relevant chapter/NBRC content area and link to the selected Web subject matter. For those needing additional personal support, including access to unlimited practice testing based on a 3,000+ item pool of NBRC-like questions (all automatically scored and provided with answer explanations), we recommend that you consider the Online CRT Examination Review course described in Appendix C. As an added benefit, purchasers of this book are eligible for a discounted enrollment fee for this comprehensive Web-based course.

Preparing for and passing the CRT exam is a major task. To achieve any major task, you need the right plan and the right materials. This book provides you with both. Follow our plan, use the tools we provide and the strategies we recommend, and you can achieve this important goal!

— CLS, AJH, & LMS
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