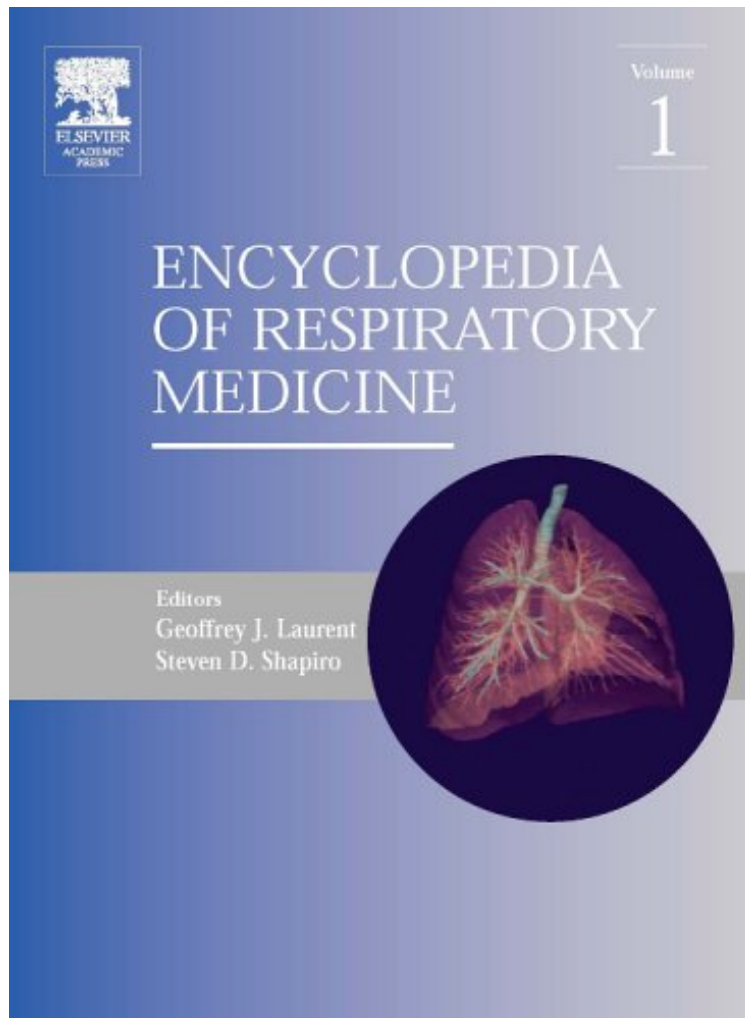


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About the Author Geoffrey J Laurent PhD Hon MRCP (U.K.) FRCPath (U.K.) is Professor and Director of the Centre for Respiratory Research at the Royal Free and University College Medical School, London, U.K., where he directs a team of internationally renowned scientists and physicians exploring the basic science of inflammation and tissue repair. He has published over 200 articles in international journals of biochemistry, cell biology and biomedical research and has edited several books. Professor Laurent is currently Editor in Chief of the International Journal of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, an Associate Editor of the American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology and a member of the editorial board of Thorax. He was recently awarded the European Respiratory Society Presidential Award for his contribution to lung research. Steven J Shapiro MD is the Jack D. Myers Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. Using a multidisciplinary approach, including cell and molecular biology, bioinformatics/functional genomics scientists, human geneticists, regenerative medicine biologists, and clinical trials, Dr Shapiro and his colleagues are attempting to understand the biological basis of COPD and develop a therapy to improve patient care. He is currently Editor in Chief of the American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology and serves on six additional editorial boards including the Journal of Clinical Investigation and Journal of Experimental Medicine. He is a recipient of the American Thoracic Society Research Achievement Award, and the Ochsner Award for tobacco-related research.