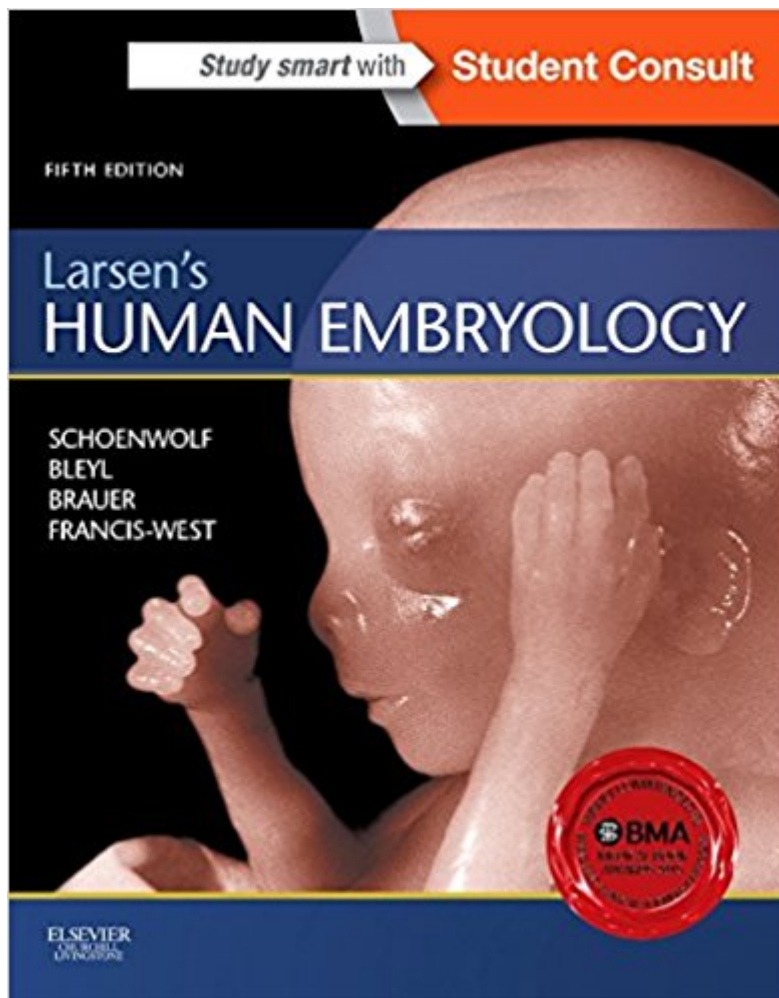




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# Larsen's Human Embryology, 5e (Schoenwolf, Larsen's Human Embryology)



## Synopsis

2015 BMA Medical Book Awards Highly Commended in Basic and Clinical Sciences Category!

Larsen's Human Embryology works as a well-organized, straightforward guide to this highly complex subject, placing an emphasis on the clinical application of embryology and presenting it in an easily digestible manner. Ideal for visual students, this updated medical textbook includes a superior art program, brand-new online animations, and high-quality images throughout; clear descriptions and explanations of human embryonic development, based on all of the most up-to-date scientific discoveries and understanding, keep you abreast of the latest knowledge in the field. Take advantage of the most current advances in molecular biology and genetics. Review the material in a flexible manner that meets your specific needs thanks to a user-friendly design. Access high-yield content and quickly locate key information with help from newly condensed text and additional summary tables. Take advantage of key pedagogical features such as opening "Summary" boxes. Visualize complex concepts more clearly than before through a superior art program and outstanding clinical content and images throughout. Reinforce your understanding of the material and how it will relate to real-life scenarios with "Embryology in Practice" clinical closers added to each chapter. Access the complete contents online at Student Consult! View animations on Eye and Ear Development, test yourself with multiple self-assessment questions, and more!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a first year med student coming from a non-bio background, embryology was a relatively foreign subject to me in the beginning of the year. I chose this book based on the many useful drawings which I think illustrate concepts well. The art style is consistent throughout the book -- which I like -- and because of the level of continuity, the illustrations and captions alone have been great for learning the basics. The text seems detailed enough to use as a reference as well but is likely to be overwhelming for review purposes. The paper quality is EXCELLENT, with thick glossy pages. Impressions / comparisons to other highly-regarded resources:- Langman's is packed with medically-relevant details while text is a lot more concise. Not as many pictures.- Carlson's Human Embryology and Developmental Biology seems to place a greater emphasis on the biochemical basis of development, i.e. the factors / chemicals driving developmental changes.

This book is a vast improvement over the 3rd edition written mostly by Larsen and completed by others. It makes the study of embryology, well, not enjoyable, but at least painless. The authors have corrected previous editorial blunders like missing colors, but they didn't catch them all, like the missing heart outline in the last image of the systemic venous system. Other image improvements are the addition of more labeled components of images carried over from the 3rd edition; still not enough in some cases, though. Pointless images have been removed, mostly SEMs. The heart chapter has been completely rewritten, with diagrams that make a previously obscure exposition readable. Embryonic folding, always a tough read, has been split to the gastrointestinal, body cavity, and week 4 chapters, which makes more sense. Molecular and clinical information is spread throughout each chapter at appropriate places, instead of being lumped together at the end, and of course, it's all up to date (well, for 2008). There are several new well-written and illustrated chapters. The book retains the reversed definitions of the aorticorenal and superior mesenteric ganglia, despite the fact that both are correctly labeled in the (identical) diagrams of the two editions. Supporting evidence that no one actually proofread this section is that, like the previous edition, "superior mesenteric ganglia" is not in bold font, as are the other two ganglia. This error would have been corrected were it not for the second most annoying practice of this publisher, which is their refusal to post errata for any textbook or to give readers a way to report errors to them. The preface to this edition has an email address for one of the authors whom I have advised of the ganglia error. (The most annoying practice is their gobbling up of a large fraction of screen real estate with their pretentious logo, titling, menus, buttons, and other nonsense, in the studentconsult online version of the book. And they are not interested in hearing from you about it.

But all that is moot, because studentconsult is a complete farce, including animations which confuse more than elucidate.) One may also wonder why, when editorial practice in recent years has been to replace eponymous nomenclature with functional terms, the authors chose to replace "paramesonephric duct" with "Müllerian duct". And they kept the word "anlage", which hasn't been spoken by man or beast in decades. In a short section of the Introduction entitled "Phases of Human Embryology", the word 'purpose' is used seven times. This is an affront to the scientifically enlightened (does not include most med students), because it promotes the notion of teleology, which, unless you're a member of the Flat Earth Society, is bullbleep. Subliminal messages, possibly unintended, inculcate incorrect notions in the naive reader, and can adversely affect clinical practice. I recommend that all words suggestive of teleology be excised for the next edition. For starters, replace 'purpose' with 'effect'. All that aside, this is probably the best embryo book on the market for the serious medical student or resident. Those who only want to memorize answers for Step 1 should find something simpler, like a dime-thin USMLE review book that drills on answers with no pretense of teaching anything. Such comic book level reviews, however, will not even approximate in number the cornucopia of pathologies in Larsen's.

This is a great book. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to understand what is being explained. The graphics are great and helpful to visualize concepts and stages of development. It's paperback and light weight, which helps when you have to carry it around in a backpack. The only con is that the animations on the website are very short, some less than 30 seconds, with no text or audio explanation of what is being shown.

This book is great for going over the subject a first time through. The main text sections aren't so long and thick that you can't read them (a usual problem), but are interspersed with lots of further detail which you can take or leave. Some of the molecular detail is a bit much if you're not an embryology researcher, but is good as a reference. My main qualm with this version compared with past ones is that the chapters are oddly organized. It takes apart elements that should be in the same chapter together (and their all-pertinent drawings!) and splices them around the book. The "Fetus as a Patient" chapter should be at the end, after the development is completely elucidated, and not shoved somewhere towards the beginning. Why did they take out the old glossary that used to be at the end of the book? Otherwise, great book!

Had this book for my Embryology course and it is amazing. It's really easy to follow, the online

supplemental materials are fantastic. I recommend getting it new. That said, you don't even have to be a student to appreciate how awesome this book is. I find myself constantly looking at it even after my course finished just looking up interesting factoids with my wife. Great buy, great read.

This book is written in a way that makes understanding developmental processes an easy task. Great and detailed explanations of the signaling mechanisms between embryonic tissues that define the developmental fate in organogenesis and histogenesis, together with the morphological changes during embryonic and fetal development.

This is a great book esp. if you've never had embryology before (like me). I used this in my first year of med school and it served me very well. I borrowed Langmans from a friend but had a really hard time understanding the text. It's super short and doesn't explain things nearly as well as this book but if you've already had some embryology I can see how some might prefer Langmans- it's very short and concise. Larsen's is a bit wordy, and long but it was helpful to me.

My favorite embryology textbook. The heart embryology is far superior to Moore's. To learn embryology, I highly recommend reading both Larsen's and Moore's textbooks.

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