

Basic Pharmacology in Medicine Third Edition

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Basic Pharmacology in Medicine

Third
Edition

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Basic Pharmacology in Medicine

N O T I C E

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P R E F A C E

The third edition of this basic text of pharmacology represents not merely a revision but actually an entirely new text. The requirements of the new text have been dictated by the vast changes in science and technology, the changing attitudes of students and teachers toward medical education, and the new patterns and ethical considerations of health care delivery that have emerged since the last edition seven years ago.

First of all, a middle course has been followed between a huge comprehensive text and a core curriculum manual, which was the aim of the first and second editions. The present edition covers all the pharmacologic information that is pertinent for physicians and medical students who are to qualify for licensing or requalifying examinations to practice medicine in the United States. It is also of primary utility for scientists who desire pharmacologic information, students qualifying for advanced degrees in pharmacology, pharmacy students and practitioners, and of course other health care workers such as nurses and physicians' assistants.

One pattern that persists in this edition is concentration on the mechanisms of drug action. Thus the introductory chapters cover theory in depth, and the subsequent chapters on more practical aspects repeat and emphasize this information. A molecular biology approach has been applied wherever appropriate. Clinical pharmacology information is a standard part of each drug discussion. The information is designed to prepare the student for the therapy of disease. The toxicology section has been expanded.

Finally, the text has been divided into ten parts, with individual section editors. This was done to ensure as much uniformity as possible in a multiauthored text. In all cases references have been updated to provide the best and most recent information.

The editors are deeply grateful to their many collaborators. Most have come from Philadelphia medical schools or institutions. Their ready access to us has made our task easier. Our "computer gals" Linda Bush and Diane Ciamaichelo have shown extraordinary patience, for which we are especially thankful. Muza Navrozov, Area Editing Supervisor at McGraw-Hill, has rescued many a "dangling" participle, and her suggestions and criticisms have been most valuable. Emil Bobyock, Robert McMichael, and Eileen Ruch were of great help with the indexing.

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