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# Hepatology

A TEXTBOOK OF LIVER DISEASE

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Second Edition

Volume 1

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A TEXTBOOK OF LIVER DISEASE

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# PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

The goal of the first edition of *Hepatology* was to provide a framework of pathophysiology as a basis for understanding liver function and liver disease in addition to authoritative, up-to-date descriptions of the clinical and laboratory manifestations of liver diseases and the diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for managing them. Half of the first edition thus comprised discussions of hepatic morphology, physiology, and biochemistry; mechanisms of injury to the liver; and the impact of disordered hepatic function on the physiology of other systems. The interval of seven years between the first and second editions of *Hepatology* has not weakened our belief that the practice of medicine is most effective when based on an understanding of the fundamental pathophysiologic events that lead to disordered function. The philosophy determining the organization and content of the second edition hence is the same as it was for the first. But there have been major changes in *Hepatology* because of new knowledge about liver function and about the causes and treatments of liver disease.

Thirty-seven contributors to the second edition were not represented in the first. Several new chapters have been added, and there is expanded coverage in many of the revised chapters. Changes in authorship have been made to infuse the book with new perspectives, even in well-established aspects of liver disease. Sadly, however, Dr. Robert Peters, who was an important contributor to the first edition, has died. His skill as a pathologist and dedication to scholarship in medicine will be missed by everyone with an interest in liver disease.

Section I of the current edition continues to discuss normal morphology and function. New chapters have been added here on receptor-mediated endocytosis, collagen and lymphokine metabolism, and the metabolism of bile acids. The problem of cirrhotic ascites in Section II (Manifestations of Liver Disease) is now a separate chapter. Section IV, which is devoted to the clinical aspects of liver disease, contains the largest number of completely new chapters, providing new information on the chemical mechanisms of drug-induced liver injury, the molecular biology of persistent infection with hepatitis B virus, surgical management of liver trauma, surgical management of liver tumors, and liver disease in pregnancy. The single chapter on diseases of the biliary tract in the first edition has been expanded to five chapters, including one on lithotripsy.

As was true seven years ago, there remain unresolved problems in patients with liver disease and controversies about the application of therapies. Areas of uncertainty and controversy are delineated in the text so that the reader will discern not only where we are in the progressive struggle to change the natural course of liver disease but also where we need to go.

Finally, we continue to hope that *Hepatology*, by defining areas of insufficient knowledge and controversy, will stimulate students and investigators to pursue definitive answers to the important problems that remain unsolved.

DAVID ZAKIM  
THOMAS D. BOYER

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