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# Clinical Therapeutics

**Editors** 

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## **Clinical Therapeutics**

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#### **Foreword**

The proliferation of information over the last several decades has emphasized the need for physicians to be *au courant* and to continue their education. The array of therapeutic agents and procedures available to modern physicians in the treatment of diseases has increased dramatically. Last year's "drug of choice" may be contraindicated, whereas new uses may be developed for an agent long discarded by practitioners.

Modern therapy changes rapidly, and approaches and evaluations of therapy are under constant scrutiny. It is urgent that physicians not only keep up-to-date but, more important, know how to use all agents—both old and new—properly, since the patient's well-being depends on the physician's knowledge of the benefits and dangers of the thereapy. This applies to specialists as well as to generalists, particularly those whose patients are receiving multiple drug regimes for multisystem diseases.

The authors and editors of this book have brought together chapters on broad but pertinent modalities of treatment, complications, and interactions. Busy practitioners will find in these pages the answers to many of their therapeutic problems.

Joseph R. DiPalma, M.D., Ph.D. Dean, Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

#### **Preface**

The vast majority of previous Hahnemann Symposia have dealt with the diagnosis of disease. This symposium was held because of the need for a timely, detailed update of major topical areas in clinical therapeutics.

This volume covers therapeutic areas in all subspecialties of medicine. Although careful clinical observations of response to therapy are stressed throughout, ample reference is made to the precise measurement of serum drug levels for interpreting effect and adversity. Clinical pharmacology thus incorporates an understanding of pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, and laboratory medicine as adjunctive tools in gauging therapeutic response.

Because of the rapid advances in medical management and therapeutics, many experts worked together rapidly to produce this timely and practical book, written for the general internist and family physician. It also will be useful for the new health practitioners working with these physicians—physician assistants and nurse practitioners.

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