

# TEXTBOOK OF ENDOCRINOLOGY

*Sixth Edition*

*Edited by*  
ROBERT H. WILLIAMS, M.D.

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*With Contributions by Forty-nine Authorities*



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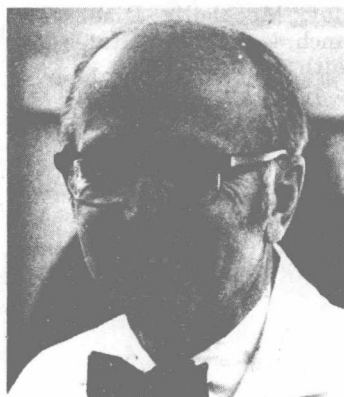
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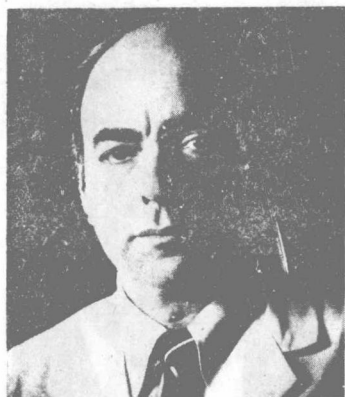
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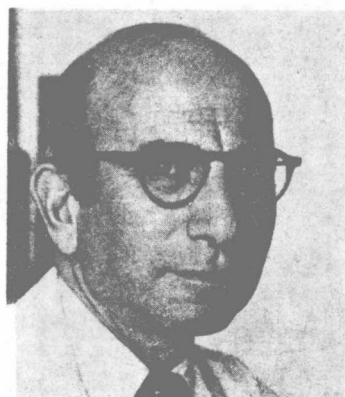
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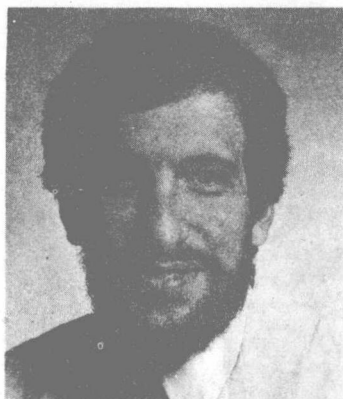
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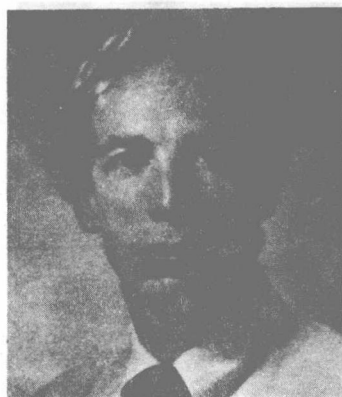
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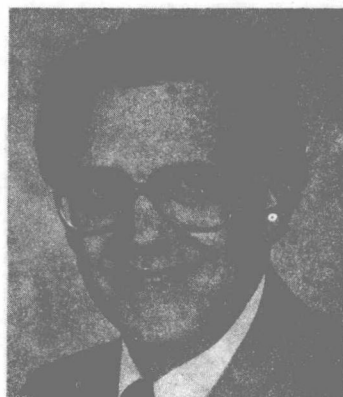
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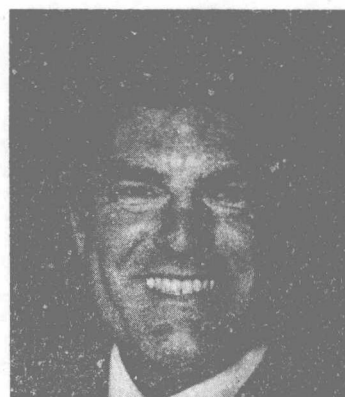
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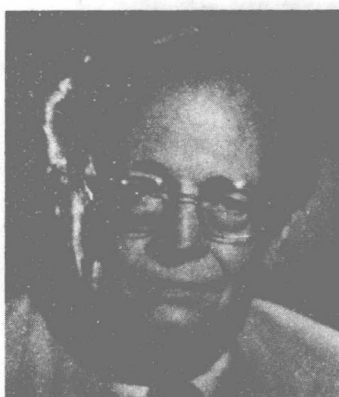
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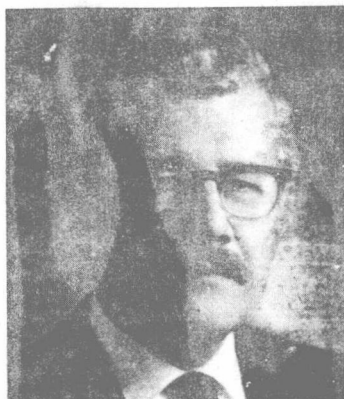
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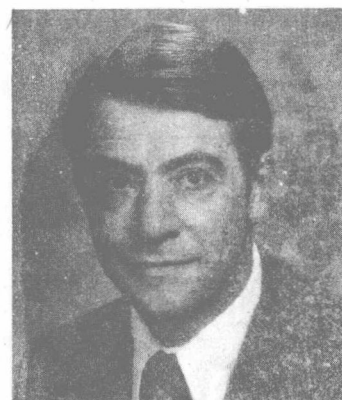
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# PUBLISHER'S FOREWORD

The sudden death of Dr. Robert H. Williams in November 1979 interrupted his work on this edition in mid-course. There was a necessarily lengthy interval of reorganization and rededication to completion of the work by his former associates before his own chapters could be brought to final form.

Meanwhile some contributions had been reviewed by Dr. Williams and submitted for typesetting. Editorial and production work went ahead in the usual way on these chapters in preparation for 1980 publication. The chapters submitted earliest (Chapters 1, 3, 13, 18, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, and 31) are presented here as approved by Dr. Williams.

Inevitably delays and difficulties hampered preparation of a few chapters, and some were not delivered for printing until the spring of 1981. The complete table of contents and the list of contributors found in this edition follow Dr. Williams' plans.

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## IN MEMORIAM

This Sixth Edition of Williams' *Textbook of Endocrinology* is dedicated to Dr. Robert H. Williams, who died November 4th, 1979, while it was in preparation. Dr. Williams' contributions to medical research, teaching, and organization are legion; but he is best known throughout the world as an author and the editor of this *Textbook*.

The philosophy of the book was clearly stated in the Preface to the First Edition:

Tremendous progress has been made in the field of endocrinology in the past three decades. During this period many of the hormones have been made available in pure form and much has been learned of the manner in which they influence propagation, growth, maturation and general metabolic activities. With the accumulation of knowledge of the mechanisms by which the hormones influence bodily functions, there has been acquired a much better understanding of the clinical endocrinopathies. Moreover, attention has recently turned to the role of the endocrines in heart failure, hypertension, gerontology, immunology, hematology and in the therapy of neoplasms and neoplasms and collagen diseases.

The rapidity and extent of advances in endocrinology have made it increasingly difficult for the student and physician to take full advantage of information available for the understanding, diagnosis and treatment of clinical disorders. It is the realization of these difficulties that prompted the writing of this book. The main objective is to provide a condensed and authoritative discussion of the management of clinical endocrinopathies, based upon the application of fundamental information obtained from chemical and physiologic investigations.

The authors chosen to collaborate in writing this book are men who have maintained intimate contact with progress in both basic and clinical investigations and who have had great experience in the practical application of this information. Since they have also demonstrated excellent teaching ability, they are well qualified to present a clear and well-balanced discussion of their subject.

The *Textbook* soon received universal acceptance. It introduced generations of medical students and house officers to the field of endocrinology, and this exposure led many to select a career in research, teaching, or practice of endocrinology.

The *Textbook* became the standard reference book on endocrinology for both the general physician and the specialist. Its influence spread around the world, reaching physicians not only in English but also in French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Polish, and Spanish editions. Many contributors have learned that their international reputation depended not so much on their own research contributions as on the fact that they authored chapters in Williams' *Textbook of Endocrinology*.

Dr. Williams defined his goals for the Sixth Edition in a letter to the contributors as follows:

There has accumulated such a vast amount of material dealing with different phases of endocrinology and metabolism that we must be highly selective in the phases for coverage and the extent of coverage. It is our objective to mention the most important components and to deal with them in a brief and clear manner. In areas of controversy it is important to mention that the points are controversial, but for the author to give his best judgment for the present.

The challenge has been to present the essence of a field which has continued to exhibit logarithmic growth within the confines of a book of roughly the same size. "Unless we make a great effort to restrict the length, we will end up with a heavy and expensive book that may either be left on the shelf unusually long or not be acquired in the first place."

It was the essence of Dr. Williams' genius as a teacher of endocrinology at the bedside, in the lecture hall, and through his textbook that he was not content to transmit simply the basic facts of endocrinology but also conveyed the excitement of endocrinology and its promise of the future.

Those of us who have worked to complete this work that he initiated hope that it measures up to the exalted standards he set. The world has lost a remarkable teacher and author.

WILLIAM H. DAUGHADAY, M.D.



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