

Lippincott's
Illustrated
Reviews

series editors

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Pharmacology
2nd edition

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Lippincott-Raven

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Lippincott's Illustrated Reviews: Pharmacology

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Lippincott - Raven

P U B L I S H E R S

Philadelphia • New York

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Sponsoring Editor: Mary Beth Murphy
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3 5 6 4

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Mycek, Mary Julia

Pharmacology/Mary J. Mycek, Richard A. Harvey, Pamela C. Champe; clinical consultant (antimicrobials), Bruce Fisher; computer graphics, Michael Cooper.—2nd ed.

p. cm —(Lippincott's Illustrated Reviews)

Rev. ed. of: Pharmacology/editors, Richard A. Harvey, Pamela C. Champe. c1992

Includes bibliographic references and index.

ISBN 0-397-51567-7 9 (alk. paper)

1. Pharmacology—Outlines, syllabi, etc. 2. Pharmacology—

Examinations, questions, etc. I. Harvey, Richard A. II. Champe, Pamela C. III. Pharmacology. IV. Title. V. Series

[DNLM: 1. Pharmacology—examination questions. 2. Pharmacology—outlines. QV 18.2 M995p 1997]

RM301.14.P47 1997

615'.1'076—dc20

DNLM/DLC

for Library of Congress

96-9180

CIP

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Some drugs and medical devices presented in this publication have Food and Drug Administration (FDA) clearance for limited use in restricted research settings. It is the responsibility of the health care provider to ascertain the FDA status of each drug or device planned for use in their clinical practice.

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Preface

Who will find this book useful

Lippincott's Illustrated Reviews: Pharmacology integrates and summarizes the essentials of medical pharmacology for (1) students in the health-related professions who are preparing for licensure examination [for example, the United States Medical Licensure Examination (USMLE) Step 1], and (2) professionals who wish to review or update their knowledge in this rapidly expanding area of biomedical science. The *Illustrated Review* uses an information-intensive, outline format along with summary figures and practice questions to teach this complex material.

How to use this book

OUTLINE TEXT *Lippincott's Illustrated Reviews: Pharmacology* uses a unique expanded outline format which allows the rapid review and assimilation of facts and concepts. The current knowledge in the field of medical pharmacology has been "predigested" and the relevant information has been recast in a hierarchical organization. Important topics are shown in bold print, whereas the names of drugs are featured in an italic typeface. This organization enables the reader to readily scan a page to locate specific information or to find a particular drug. A phonetic pronunciation guide for drug names assures that the reader will have a conversational familiarity with the therapeutic agents described in the book. Each chapter starts with a chart that lists and classifies the drugs to be discussed in that chapter. This permits the reader to immediately understand and remember the significant relationships among the facts and concepts.

ILLUSTRATIONS *Lippincott's Illustrated Reviews: Pharmacology* contains more than 400 original illustrations, each carefully crafted to compliment and amplify the text. This volume features a new kind of diagram in which pharmacologic processes are illustrated with a blend of graphics and explanations. This marriage of words and art allows the reader to integrate a body of knowledge without the distraction of constantly shifting from text to illustrations. For example, to sort out the intricacies of neurotransmitter synthesis and release in an ordinary textbook would require repeated skipping from text to figures. By contrast, the *Illustrated Review* (see for example, Figure 4.3, p.37) reveals the major steps and their significance at a glance.

CROSS-REFERENCES WITHIN THIS BOOK *Lippincott's Illustrated Review: Pharmacology* not only permits the easy assimilation of pharmacologic facts and concepts but also provides an extensive network of more than 400 cross-references to other relevant information in the volume. Thus, when readers encounter a new block of information, they are immediately directed by page citations to related material that reinforces and expands the original information. This elaborate matrix of references provides a cross fertilization that increases learning and retention. The student ends up with the "the big picture."

CROSS-REFERENCES TO OTHER BOOKS IN THE SERIES A unique feature of this volume is the large number of references to *Lippincott's Illustrated Reviews: Biochemistry*, which is the biochemistry volume in the Lippincott series. Designated as InfoLink references, they are located at the end of each chapter. This permits a reader with an interest in learning additional information related to a particular topic to readily locate relevant material covered in the biochemistry review. InfoLink also emphasizes the interrelationships between these biomedical disciplines—a skill that is increasingly being tested by the USMLE, Step I.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS A total of more than 200 practice questions (of the types used by the National Board of Medical Examiners and other standardized test writers) are included at the end of each chapter so that readers can check their progress in mastering the material. Answers with explanations are provided so that the reader knows both the correct answer and also why the distractors in the multiple choice questions are incorrect. These answers and their explanations are juxtaposed with the original questions in a special section at the end of the book. Thus readers can confirm the correct answers to a group of study questions without the disorientation of flipping from page to page.

FINDING INFORMATION An extensive index of more than 4000 entries permits the reader to instantly locate specific information. The index includes commonly used trade-names of drugs.

Readers should thumb through this carefully coordinated review of therapeutically useful agents . . . they may be surprised that learning pharmacology can be so enjoyable!

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the many friends and colleagues who generously contributed their time and effort to help us make this book as accurate and as useful as possible. We would like to acknowledge the contributions of Drs. Zigmund Kaminski, Edward J. Flynn, Lester A. Sultatos, Uri Lopatin and Kafui DeMasio who provided many helpful comments. We would particularly like to express our thanks to Dr. Bruce Fisher whose clinical insights and suggestions were invaluable in clarifying confusing concepts. We highly value the additional support of our other colleagues at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and in New Jersey Medical School. We (RAH and PCC) owe a special thanks to our Chairman, Dr. Masayori Inouye, who has encouraged us in this and other teaching projects. We would also like to thank Dr. Victor Gruber, the Director of the National Medical School Review, for sharing his insights into educational mechanisms for effectively integrating the biomedical sciences.

Without talented artists, an Illustrated Review would be impossible, and we have been particularly fortunate in working with Michael Cooper throughout this project. His artistic sense and computer graphics expertise have greatly added to our ability to bring alive pharmacology “stories” for our readers. We also wish to thank Jo Gershman, who was a contributing artist.

The editors and production staff of the Lippincott–Raven Publishers were a constant source of encouragement and discipline. We particularly want to acknowledge the tremendously helpful, supportive, creative contributions of our editor, Richard Winters, whose imagination and positive attitude helped us out of the valleys. Final editing and assembly of the book has been greatly enhanced through the efforts of Janet Greenwood and Mary Beth Murphy. Finally, the authors give thanks to Drs. Marilyn Schorin and Sewell Champe for their unfailing personal and professional support of this project, and to the late John Mycek for his encouragement.