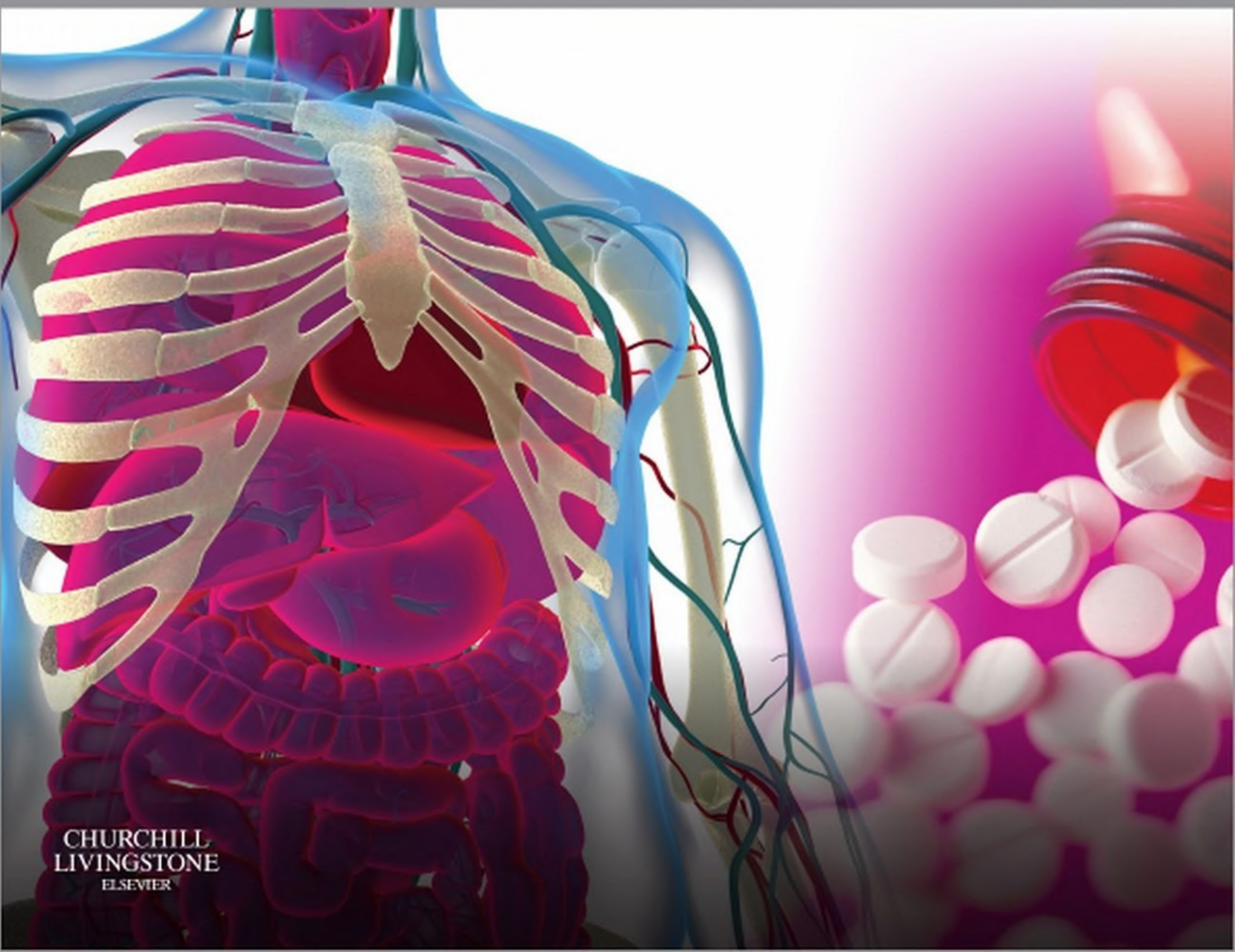


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Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics

Edited by **Roger Walker and Cate Whittlesea**



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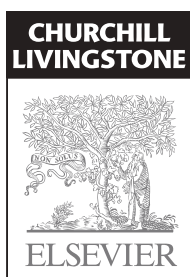
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FIFTH EDITION



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Preface

In both primary and secondary care the use of medicines is the most common intervention in healthcare. Medicines use, however, is not without risk. Drug selection and prescribing is increasingly complex and demanding, and undertaken as part of a multi-disciplinary process that involves pharmacists, some of whom are now prescribers in their own right, along with doctors, nurses and other members of the healthcare team. All must strive to promote safe, appropriate and cost-effective prescribing that respects patient choice and promotes adherence. This book has been written to help the reader understand and address many of these issues. It is unashamedly written from a pharmacy perspective, although we do hope those from other disciplines will also find it of use.

We have made considerable effort to update each chapter and ensure the content is relevant to current practice. Selected website addresses have been included to assist those who want to obtain further information and many references are now available electronically and this has been indicated where appropriate. However, knowledge in therapeutics progresses rapidly, changes to dose regimens and licensed indications are frequent, safety issues emerge with established drugs and new medicines appear at regular intervals. Yesterday another

landmark study was published adding to, or perhaps altering, the evidence base for a specific treatment. Together with the ongoing publication of national guidelines and frameworks, the face of therapeutics is ever changing. It is therefore inevitable that some sections of this book will date more quickly than others.

In practice many licensed drugs are used ‘off label’ or “near label” when prescribed for a certain indication or used in a specific patient group such as children. To omit reference to these agents in the relevant chapter would leave an apparent gap in therapeutic management. As a consequence we have encouraged our authors to present details of all key drugs used along with details of the prescribed regimens even if not licensed for that specific indication. There is, however, a downside to this approach. The reader must always use this text critically and with caution. If this is done the book will serve as a valuable learning resource and help the reader understand some of the principles of therapeutics. We hope that, in some small way, this will also assist in achieving positive patient outcomes.

Roger Walker
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Acknowledgements

In 2011, as in 1994 when the first edition was published, undergraduate and postgraduate students help sustain our enthusiasm and commitment while continuing to be the inspiration and the *raison d'être* for this book. To all those who have provided feedback in the past, thank you. For those who would like to comment on this edition, we welcome your feedback; please contact us at walkerR@cardiff.ac.uk or cate.whittlesea@kcl.ac.uk.

We remain indebted to all authors who, through their hard work, patience and tolerance, have contributed to the fifth edition of this book. We are particularly grateful to those who have again contributed to another edition of this textbook and who strive, along with us, to produce an ever better book. To our first-time authors, we are very grateful that you agreed to contribute, that you accepted our cryptic editorial comments in good faith and still managed to submit on time. We hope that you will continue to work with us on future editions.

A textbook of this size cannot, of course, be produced without the invaluable help, support and occasional comments of numerous colleagues, particularly those within the Public Health Wales, the Welsh School of Pharmacy, Cardiff University, and the Institute of Pharmaceutical Science, King's College London. It would be invidious to name individuals who have helped us, in part for fear of offending anyone we might miss. We do, however, continue to make

one exception to this rule. The administrative support from Marilyn Meecham has been invaluable. She has co-ordinated this new edition from the outset and was often called upon to present the polite face of two chastened editors. Thanks Marilyn.

It was with great sadness that in November 2010 we heard of the untimely death of Professor Steve Hudson. Steve was a friend and colleague who had a broad knowledge of clinical pharmacy and was one of the movers, shakers and thinkers central to the establishment of clinical pharmacy in the UK in the 1980's. He contributed to the first edition of this book in 1994 and his most recent update is included in the current edition. It is our loss that he will be unable to review his latest contribution in print.

Finally, and on a personal note, we would like thank our close families for their support and tolerance with our indulgence in editing this text. At times it may have appeared that everything in our lives took second place to 'the book'. We are eternally grateful for their understanding, particularly when we got our priorities in life wrong. Without the unfailing support of Ann and Alex, this book would never have materialized.

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