

JNMT Bookshelf

NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY: CONTINUING EDUCATION REVIEW (Second ed)

Eva B. Dubovsky, ed, Medical Examination Publishing Co., New Hyde Park, New York, 1981, 216 pp, \$18.50.

Updated and revised since the 1976 edition, this text contains 468 essay questions and answers covering a wide range of topics. As in the previous edition, basic radiation physics, instrumentation and quality assurance, radiation dosimetry and biology, radiopharmaceuticals, and radiation protection are covered. Also included is a chapter reviewing in vitro techniques, and nine chapters, arranged by organ systems, dealing with imaging procedures.

Of special note is the addition of a nuclear cardiology section, which addresses stress testing, first-pass and gated cardiac studies, and stress and equilibrium thallium studies. A short chapter on the use of computers and ultrasound has also been incorporated; however, considering the extensive use of computers in nuclear medicine in recent years, this chapter barely touches the subject.

While I generally find review books to be of very limited value, this particular text is a cut above the multiple-choice, question-and-answer review book by virtue of its essay answer format. References cited with each answer are another plus.

Nuclear medicine technology students and technologists may find this text helpful as a review guide, particularly if the references are consulted. It is not in-depth enough for serious study.

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NUCLEAR MEDICINE ANNUAL 1982

Leonard M. Freeman, ed, and Heidi S. Weissmann, assoc. ed, Raven Press, New York, 1982, 420 pp, \$49.00.

I have often been puzzled by books labeled "annuals." Does it mean that a book is a review of work done up to the year it is dated or does it mean that a book is simply a review of the work done since the previous year's annual?

The editors of *Nuclear Medicine Annual 1982* state in their preface that there is a definite need for the "current status" and "progress" reviews they are presenting.

From my standpoint, this book does not appear to be current status. There are eleven chapters in the book and in all 1,460 references are quoted—but of these, only 17 are from work published in 1982 and 205 from work published in 1981. Several topics, including single photon emission computed tomography, nuclear magnetic resonance, phase analysis, and hepatobiliary imaging are inadequately discussed.

Several chapters, in my opinion, won't be of much interest to staff technologists. These are the chapters on radiolabeled leukocytes, radiolabeled platelets, cyclotrons, and functional brain imaging using positron emission tomography.

The editors have apparently allowed the authors of the individual chapters great liberty in presenting information. For example, in chapter two, Dennis D. Patton discusses the current status of liver scintigraphy to diagnose space-occupying diseases. Dr. Patton gives a very thorough discussion of his liver-scanning technique—including usual adult dosage, imaging time, collimator used, patient positioning, images taken, markers used, and counts per image. In chapter three, however, Philip Matin discusses bone scanning of trauma and benign conditions—without mentioning such topics as radiopharmaceutical used, dosage to be given, scanners or cameras, whether or not to hydrate patients, when to image, or any of the technical factors associated with bone scanning.

I did find some of the chapters very interesting and timely. For example, chapter seven—radioimmunoassay and related methods: current status and future perspectives by Robert G. Hamilton and John M. Waud—is very good. Drs. Hamilton and Waud reflect on the evolution of RIA during the late 1970s, discuss methodology improvements and clinical applications in the early 1980s, and explore the potential for RIA and nonisotopic immunoassays in the future. They also present a clear and concise explanation of monoclonal antibodies. Since the labeling of monoclonal antibodies with indium-111 has been reported, this is a topic I think technologists will find increasingly important.

Chapter eight—current status of iodine-131 in the treatment of hypothyroidism by David V. Becker and James R. Hurley—is also timely, thorough, and of interest to technologists.

Overall, however, I do not recommend this book to technologists.

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