Clinical Practice of Nuclear Medicine
Andrew Taylor, Jr. and Frederick L. Datz, eds. New York: Churchill Livingstone, 1991, 471 pp., $95.00.

This textbook of nuclear medicine is a useful addition to the bookshelf of nuclear medicine technologists and nuclear medicine physicians. The editors state that this textbook is designed "for physicians who practice nuclear medicine and residents who intend to practice nuclear medicine." Due to its brevity in certain areas, it will probably have greater application for residents than for practitioners.

As intended, the book is clinically oriented and covers the major topics of interest in nuclear medicine. The majority of the authors who contributed to this volume are well known in the field and have a diversity of experience. The strengths of this book lie in the basic science chapters and those chapters devoted to cardiovascular nuclear medicine and pulmonary imaging.

Weaknesses are to be found in the areas of explanation of ROC curves, sensitivity and specificity, and a lack of emphasis on pediatric nuclear medicine. The usual number of typos are found. Insufficient background information is given with regard to adenosine application in the performance of myocardial perfusion studies. Some of the images are rather dated, especially those applying to transaxial tomography of the brain.

Lack of detailed protocols in some areas will limit the usefulness of this book for technologists. The appendices are useful, particularly Appendix 2, which focuses on pediatric radiopharmaceutical dosages. Additional information that might have been provided in the appendix, such as definition of nuclide abbreviations and recommended dosages for adults, is lacking.

The price of the book is reasonable and I will certainly recommend it as basic reading for the nuclear medicine residents in our physician training program.

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Radiation Protection and the Internal Emitter Saga
J. Newell Stannard. Bethesda, MD: National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, 1990, 53 pp., $20.00.

Lauriston S. Taylor was the first president of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP), serving from 1964 until 1977. To honor Dr. Taylor, the NCRP annually presents a distinguished lecturer on a topic related to the goals of the organization. The publication being reviewed here was Lecture #14. The author, Dr. J. Newell Stannard, is a pioneer in the radiation protection field, with a long academic history at the University of Rochester, New York, and the University of California at San Diego.

Dr. Stannard's topic of radiation protection and the internal emitter is of interest to all nuclear medicine professionals concerned with the background and logic of our chosen profession. Dr. Stannard reviews a considerable amount of historical fact in a readable format. Internal emitter models and modeling are discussed with an emphasis on deposited radionuclides rather than radiopharmaceuticals. This is a limitation for the nuclear medicine readership.

There is an excellent bibliography, which the reader can use for extending the search for more detailed information, and a complete listing of prior NCRP publications and ordering instructions.

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Nuclear Medicine: A Teaching File
Frederick L. Datz, MD, Gregory G. Patch, MD, John M. Aries, MD, and Kathryn A. Morton, MD. St. Louis, Missiouri: Mosby-Year Book; 1992, 244 pp., $89.00.

This publication consists of a collection of more than 200 interesting cases, including both SPECT and planar imaging. The book is divided into eight chapters corresponding to the different organ systems. Each chapter contains cases representing all of the different types of imaging examinations used for that organ system.

Each case presented in this book includes a brief history, an appropriate set of images, a short description of the findings, and the correct diagnosis. This is followed by detailed information about the imaging study (i.e., activity administered, collimation, views, acquisition protocol) and a discussion of the disease process. The authors provide the criteria used in interpreting studies as well as the rationale for performing procedures. All scans presented in the text are excellent reproductions of high quality images, representative of the chosen study. When applicable, the proper use of other imaging modalities is presented, with ultrasound images and radiographs provided to substantiate the diagnosis.

To complete this teaching file, cases are presented for less common non-imaging procedures in nuclear medicine; these include the Schillings's test, red blood cell volume and red blood cell survival with splenic sequestration.

Nuclear medicine residents and technology students will find this book useful and informative in their quest to understand the applications of nuclear medicine.

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