

NMT Bookshelf

FUNDAMENTALS OF NUCLEAR PHARMACY

Gopal B. Saha, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1979, 272 pp, \$19.90.

Designed as a textbook, this volume contains 12 chapters that cover such important topics as production of radionuclides, quality control, specific characteristics of different radiopharmaceuticals, radiation safety, and radiopharmacology. Each chapter ends with a series of questions related to the preceding material and a list of suggested additional references. The information specifically pertaining to nuclear pharmacy principles and practices is generally excellent. Students should glean much useful information from this volume.

A few items of minor concern include the composition of chapter 11 entitled "In-Vitro Tests." The reason for including radioimmunoassay in this volume at all is quite vague. I also find the classification of Schilling tests, blood volumes, rbc survivals, and turnover studies as in vitro tests somewhat unusual; in vivo-nonimaging is the usual category. Specifically relative to Schilling tests, the use of Co-60 is not discouraged—which is surprising. Also, the discussion of thyroid studies buries use of I-123 under "Other Iodine Isotopes," a lowly position that it does not deserve.

Beyond this, it is unfortunate that the author cannot confine his comments to the content area implicit in the title of the text. He dilutes his effectiveness with the first paragraph of the preface by implying that schools of nuclear medicine technology are just beginning to offer courses in radiopharmacy. It is common knowledge that CAHEA-accredited nuclear medicine technology programs have required structured radiopharmaceutical training for years. In addition, chapter 8 states that "the ultimate responsibility for quality assurance of radiopharmaceuticals lies primarily with the radiopharmacist or the personnel in charge of the radiopharmacy section in a nuclear medicine division." Surely, this could have been worded differently since the holder of an NRC license is rarely a radiopharmacist. Rather, the physician under whose auspices these materials are prepared is the ultimately responsible individual. Again, in chapter 9, inappropriate comments regarding technologists' training point to the author's unrealistic perception of some areas of nuclear medicine education and his failure to research these topics.

PATRICIA WEIGAND
Veterans Administration Medical Center
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

NUCLEAR MEDICINE FOR THE GENERAL PHYSICIAN

Thomas A. Verdon, Jr., MD, PSG Publishing Company, Inc., Littleton, Massachusetts, 1980, 244 pp, \$23.50.

If nuclear medicine is to serve the patient properly, referring physicians need to appreciate the value of pro-

cedures performed by this specialty. In addition, their utilization of these studies influences the growth and scope of nuclear medicine as a whole.

Dr. Verdon's book, therefore, is very germane to both of these areas. He discusses in 16 chapters the origin of nuclear medicine, techniques of imaging, and the applicability of nuclear medicine to the various organs and organ systems. Each chapter is written in a conversational tone that prevents the reader from becoming bored while pertinent information is being presented. The chapter titles attest to the candid, on-target opinions that Dr. Verdon espouses, for example, "The Liver Scan—Is it Worth A Damn?" and "The Pancreas—A Great Disappointment."

My only serious criticism of this otherwise well-done test is the poor quality and layout of some of the images. Some are out of focus and overexposed (e.g., pp 133, 134, 159) and others needlessly contain areas that are not of interest (e.g., pp 59, 61, 63). These flaws, however, do not hamper interpretation or understanding of the points being made.

A book of this nature should be very useful in the nuclear medicine department and certainly in the hospital library for physicians looking for the right nuclear medicine answers in 25 words or less. Technologists will find it an interesting reference for some clinical questions they may have.

PATRICIA WEIGAND

NUCLEAR MEDICINE REVIEW SYLLABUS

Peter T. Kirchner, MD, editor, Society of Nuclear Medicine, New York, 1980, 619 pp, \$30.00.

The latest book from the Society of Nuclear Medicine is a comprehensive review of the major advances in nuclear medicine that have occurred in the last decade. Twelve chapters cover the areas of radiopharmacology, instrumentation, radiation effects and radiation protection, cardiovascular, central nervous system, endocrinology, gastroenterology, genitourinary, hematology-oncology, pulmonary, radioassay, and skeletal system. A bibliography is included after each chapter and while it is not comprehensive, the selections are pertinent.

The contributors are well-recognized authorities whose knowledge of and contributions to the recent advances of nuclear medicine give this text its true value and credibility. Clinical relevance of new methodologies is emphasized throughout.

Although this review syllabus is designed for physicians, nuclear medicine technologists should be able to glean large amounts of information as well. Technical aspects of the clinical studies are emphasized and understandable. Also, the first three chapters, as listed above, are more than appropriate to the practice of nuclear medicine technology.

PATRICIA WEIGAND