

Despite these minor weaknesses, the book is a notable compilation of information, approaches, guidelines, and references. It will be much appreciated by physicians in almost all disciplines, by interested scientists, and by professionals in laboratory medicine.

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GOODMAN AND GILMAN'S THE PHARMACOLOGIC BASIS OF THERAPEUTICS, NINTH EDITION

CD-ROM. Edited by Joel G. Hardman and Lee E. Limbird, with Perry B. Molinoff, Raymond W. Ruddon, and Alfred Goodman Gilman. System needed: Multimedia IBM PC or compatible computer with 4 MB RAM and at least 6 MB hard-disk space. (Also available for Macintosh System 7.0 or higher, with 4 MB RAM and at least 4 MB free hard-disk space.)
New York, McGraw-Hill, 1997. \$95.
ISBN 0-07-864186-1.

THE MERCK INDEX, 12TH EDITION

(Vol. 1.) CD-ROM, with user's guide, 55 pp.
System needed: Multimedia IBM PC or compatible computer with 8 MB RAM and 12 MB hard-disk space.
New York, Chapman & Hall, 1997. \$250.
ISBN 0-412-75650-1.

INFORMATION about much routine clinically oriented pharmacology can be found in specialty textbooks, but *Goodman and Gilman's* remains a cornerstone of clinical pharmacology whenever a thorough analysis is sought. This CD contains not only the full text but also every chart, table, diagram, and appendix in the printed version. The same CD can be used interchangeably with both IBM PC and Macintosh computers.

The CD has a useful advantage over the book: it includes abstracts covering the seven-year period from 1990 through 1996 from 51 leading clinical and pharmacologic journals cited in the bibliography of the book. This extended data base gives the reader the index and accompanying abstracts of every issue of these journals. For example, one can browse through the June 1992 issues of *Nature* or *Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics* and view the abstract of any article by double-clicking on the title.

On this CD, *Goodman and Gilman's* can be accessed either through the main list of chapters (a virtual table of contents) or with the search options. The search engine (Teton viewer) is an excellent and user-friendly interface combining ease of operation with sophisticated features.

The main advantage of this electronic version for clinical and research purposes is the ability to search for combinations of subjects or text strings. For example, a search for "tricyclic" found 169 hits, and one for "teratogenic" 44 hits; cross-matching the two terms yielded a single match, there-

by fulfilling the aim of the search. Further information about this title, including information about on-line ordering, can be found on the web at (<http://www.mghmedical.com>). This web site also provides access to selected chapters of the book just as they appear in the electronic format.

We found this package very attractive for clinical and research uses. It performs very well on a 75-MHz Pentium-equipped PC. We recommend it to anyone desiring instant access to a fundamental knowledge base.

The *Merck Index* on CD-ROM contains the monographs and selected tables from the 12th edition of the index. The data base includes more than 10,000 monographs, covering human and veterinary drugs, biologic agents, natural products, agricultural compounds, commercial and laboratory chemicals, and environmentally important compounds.

Each monograph includes the Chemical Abstracts Service registry number, drug code, generic and trade names, and chemical properties, such as the molecular formula, molecular weight, and melting point. There are therapeutic categories, references to the literature, and structural drawings of each compound. The drawings can be copied onto a computer clipboard for inclusion in texts and presentations. The references on each compound are detailed and judiciously selected from leading scientific journals, with relevant patent numbers.

Powerful tools for searching text and structure provide a convenient means of exploring the data base. Although two separate search engines were merged in this CD (Headfast/CD for the text and diagrams and PsiBase for the chemical structures), they operate together harmoniously. The user must first search by one of these methods and then operate the second search engine to refine the results. The accompanying printed manual does not fully cover some advanced options, but the electronic help screens explain them thoroughly. Searches for strings of text are relatively straightforward. Text can be typed in or chosen from a predefined index, and it is possible to search the entire text or limit the search fields.

To gain full advantage of the structure (and substructure) searching mode, one must have a basic knowledge of the nomenclature of organic compounds and their structural appearance. The user is provided with a clean drawing board on which any compound or chain may be drawn and subsequently searched for. Alternatively, a structure template or any of the listed compounds can be called up and then modified. For example, a search for "antiseptic*" compounds retrieved 191 hits. The search was then refined by cross-matching with a chemical structure manually drawn on the screen — in this case, chlorinated aromatic compounds. The combined search retrieved 13 hits. A useful addition to this powerful software would be a brief on-line tutorial on searching for structures and drawing them.

A Macintosh version of this CD is also available. Besides the standard technical support, which may be accessed by telephone, fax, or e-mail, specific queries on the contents of the monographs can be addressed directly to the *Merck Index* associate editor.

This CD is of great value for researchers interested in chemical information, but it may be less relevant to physicians engaged mostly in clinical work. It contains valuable information in a readily accessible format, with excellent

search capabilities that far surpass those of the printed equivalent.

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NOTICES

Notices submitted for publication should contain a mailing address and phone number of a contact person or department. We regret we are unable to publish all notices received.

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Presentation proposals are being accepted for "Prevention 98: Translating Science into Action," to be held in San Francisco, April 2-5. Deadline for submission is Sept. 8.

Contact PREVENTION 98, 1660 L St., NW, Ste. 206, Washington, DC 20036-5603; or call (202) 466-2569.

ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH '97

The conference, entitled "Teens and Sex: Truths and Consequences," will be held in McLean, Va., Nov. 21-23.

Contact Assoc. of Reproductive Health Professionals, 2401 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Ste. 350, Washington, DC 20037-1718; or call (202) 466-3825; or fax (202) 466-3826.

SOCIETY OF MILITARY ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

The "39th Annual Meeting" will be held in Lake Placid, N.Y., Oct. 5-10.
Contact Ellen M. Yolich, SMOS, P.O. Box 765, Grayslake, IL 60030-0765; or e-mail yolich@msn.com; or call (847) 223-9135; or fax (847) 223-9493.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Abstracts are being accepted for the "2nd International Conference on Therapies for Viral Hepatitis," to be held in Big Island, Hawaii, Dec. 15-19. Deadline for submission is Sept. 15.

Contact in U.S.: Dora Moya, Intl. Medical Press, 3112 E. Shadowlawn Ave., Atlanta, GA 30305; or call (800) 868-2022 (natl.) or (404) 233-0261 (Ga.); or fax (404) 233-2827. Contact outside of U.S.: Kari Lyall, IMP, 125 High Holborn, London WC1V 6QA, United Kingdom; or call (44) 171 404-7151; or see <http://www.intimedpress.com/hawaii/>.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW WORLD OF HEALTH CARE

The "Health Policy Program for Physicians, Trustees, and Health Care Leaders" will be held in Cambridge, Mass., Nov. 15-23.

Contact Harvard Univ., 79 J.F.K. St., Taubman Bldg. 419, Cambridge, MA 02138; or e-mail eleanor_brimley@harvard.edu; or call (617) 496-1069; or fax (617) 496-0300.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The National Kidney Foundation is accepting abstracts for its "7th Annual Spring Clinical Nephrology Meetings," to be held in Nashville, March 26-29. Deadline for submission is Dec. 5.

Contact NKF, 30 E. 33rd St., New York, NY 10016; or fax (212) 689-9261; or see <http://www.kidney.org>; or call (800) 622-9010 (natl.) or (212) 889-2210 (N.Y.).

HEADACHE

The "American Association for the Study of Headache Symposium" will be held in Scottsdale, Ariz., Nov. 14-16.

Contact AASH, 875 Kings Hwy., Ste. 200, Woodbury, NJ 08096-3172; or call (609) 845-5010; or fax (609) 384-5811.

FRONTIERS IN BREAST CANCER

The "Comprehensive Symposium on Basic and Clinical Research, Diagnosis, and Therapy" will be held in Rockville, Md., Sept. 18 and 19.

Contact GeneQuest Infosystems, 332 Bleecker St., Ste. K-13, New York, NY 10014; or e-mail GeneQuest@concentric.net; or call/fax (212) 737-3091.

PEARLS AND PITFALLS FOR PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS

The course will be offered in Baton Rouge, La., Oct. 17-19.

Contact Brandi Orgeron, Alton Ochsner Medical Fdn., CME Dept., 1516 Jefferson Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70121; or call (800) 778-9353 (natl.) or (504) 842-3702 (La.).

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The American Psychosomatic Society is accepting abstracts for its "56th Annual Scientific Meeting," to be held in Clearwater Beach, Fla., March 12-14. Deadline for submission is Sept. 26.

Contact APS, 6728 Old McLean Village Dr., McLean, VA 22101-3906; or e-mail ampsychsoc@aol.com; or call (703) 556-9222; or fax (703) 556-8729.

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

The "30th Annual New York Cardiovascular Symposium" will be held in New York, Dec. 5-7.

Contact Registration Secretary, ACC, Extramural Programs Dept., 9111 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda, MD 20814-1699; or call (800) 253-4636, ext. 695 (natl.) or (301) 897-5400 (Md.); or fax (301) 897-9745.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS

The following will be held in San Diego, Calif.: "ASTM Committee D-10 on Packaging" (Oct. 12-15) and "ASTM Committee F-2 on Flexible Barrier Materials" (Oct. 15 and 16).

Contact ASTM, 100 Barr Harbor Dr., West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959; or e-mail service@astm.org; or see <http://www.astm.org>; or call (610) 832-9500; or fax (610) 832-9635.

CORRECTIONS

Inhaled Nitric Oxide in Full-Term and Nearly Full-Term Infants with Hypoxic Respiratory Failure (February 27, 1997;336:597-604). On page 602, the last paragraph in the right-hand column should have read, "There were no significant differences between the groups after randomization in the overall incidence or severity of intracranial hemorrhage (total number, 19 in the control group and 18 in the nitric oxide group; grade IV, 8 and 7, respectively). There were also no significant differences between the control group and the nitric oxide group in the occurrence of periventricular leukomalacia (3 vs. 6), brain infarction (7 vs. 7), seizures requiring anticonvulsive therapy (24 vs. 16), and either pulmonary (6 vs. 4) or gastrointestinal (1 vs. 1) hemorrhage."

Decision Analysis — Effects of Prophylactic Mastectomy and Oophorectomy on Life Expectancy among Women with *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* Mutations (May 15, 1997;336:1465-71). On page 1468, in Figure 1, the key in all three panels should have read, "Δ Usual risk, + Risk level A, ◇ Risk level B, and x Risk level C."

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