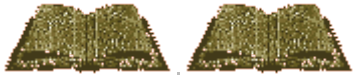
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Book Reviews: Technical Books Section



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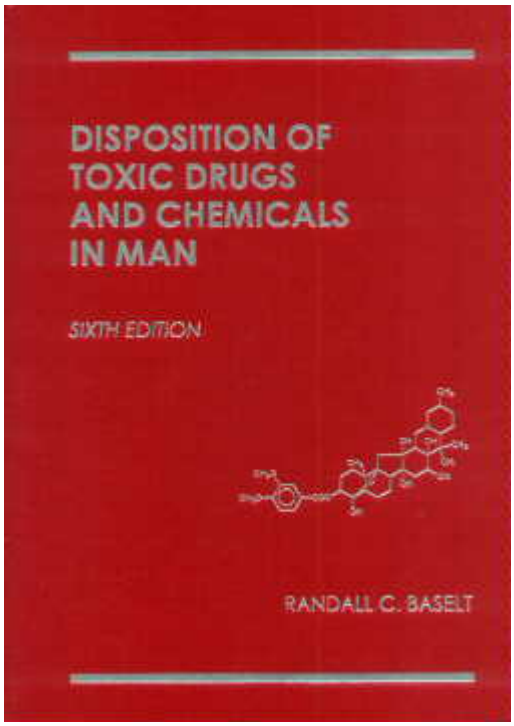
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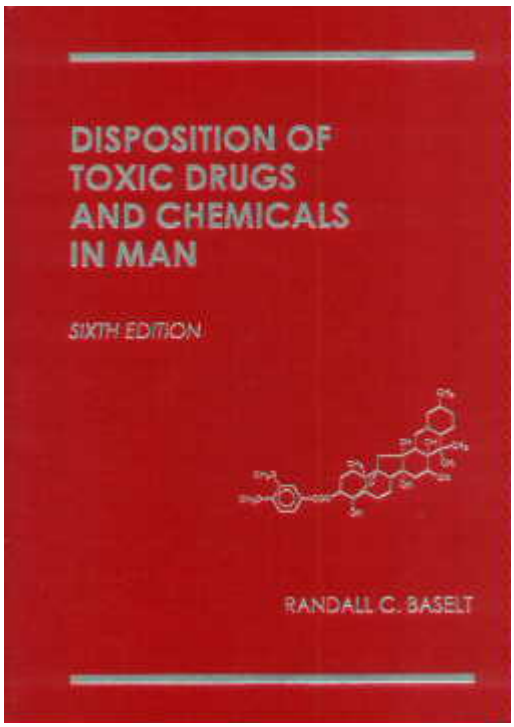
A REFERENCE BOOK WE DESPERATELY NEED

Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man, 6thEdition, *by* Randall C. Baselt. Hard Bound, 7" x 10".
Biomedical Publications, P.O. Box 8299, Foster City, CA 94404, U.S.A, Tel/. Publication Date 2002; xvii + 1146 pages: ISBN 0-9626523-5-0: Hardback edition, : Price $135.00

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Dr. Baselt's book must be in the library of any person who deals with the subject of toxicology. With his most recent edition which he released in early 2002 he has continued his leadership in the area of human toxicology.



QUICK NOTES

Some major highlights of *Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man* at a glance:

- Review of the fifth edition of this book was published in Volume 2, Number 2, (July-December 2001) of this journal. It was done by Anil Aggrawal, and can be accessed by clicking here.

- The fifth edition had 919 pages, while this one has 1146 pages, an increase of 227 pages. The fifth edition described 483 toxic drugs, while the current one adds another 116, giving a total of 599 drugs.
- The previous edition was published by the *Chemical Toxicology Institute*; the current edition is published by *Biomedical publications*.
- To visit reviews of all *Chemical Toxicology Institute* books, please click here. To visit reviews of all *Biomedical publications* books, please click here.
- The references (in the current edition) are thorough, and generally appear to reflect the most important works to be found in the literature.

The book is organized not as many texts are by class of drug but by the alphabetically arranged list of the chemicals which are discussed in each chapter. Thus the first is Acebutolol and the last Zuclopenthixol with addendums of Ciprofloxacin and Creatine which appear to have been added too late in the publishing cycle to have been in the alphabetical main listing.

This alphabetical listing by chemical is extremely useful for the purpose that I put the book. I can never remember the lethal or therapeutic levels of more than a few of the most popular drugs. Thus whenever I read a laboratory report of toxicologic testing, I take down my copy of Baselt's book and refresh my recollection, or sometimes learn for the first time, what the levels mean.

The individual chapters are each organized in the same fashion. First there is the $T_{1/2}$, the V_d, the Fb and the pKa along with a diagram of the chemical structure. This is followed by Occurrence and Usage, Blood Concentrations, Metabolism and Excretion, Toxicity, Analysis and then references.

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I have had occasion to check the references cited in a few cases and found them to be accurate. The references are thorough, but not exhaustive, and generally appear to reflect the most important works to be found in the literature.

Dr. Baselt does a great favor for the rest of us who need timely and accurate information to interpret drug and chemical levels. He has in one book, now 1146 pages thick, created the reference book which we desperately need. This is the twenty fifth anniversary of the first edition, and unfortunately not too many additional editions can be expected from Dr. Baselt. Hopefully, someone in his laboratory will continue the tradition of updating the work every three or four years as Dr. Baselt has done for the last twenty five.

-Ronald Wright



-Ronald Wright
Dr. Ronald K. Wright is Associate Professor of Pathology and Director of Forensic Pathology Division at Jackson Memorial Hospital Miami, Florida. He can be contacted at rkw@rkwrightmd.com. Dr. Wright is on the left as you look at the photograph.

Note by the Editor: Review of the 5th edition of this book appeared in Volume 2, Number 2, (July-December 2001) of this journal (While the 5th edition was published by *Chemical Toxicology Institute*, the current - 6th edition is published by *Biomedical Publications*). It was done by Anil Aggrawal. To visit this review, please the linked page (page004).

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