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Book Reviews: Technical Books Section

...AN EXCELLENT GUIDE ...the information ... this book... contains certainly contributes greatly to the decision making and is thus a highly recommended addition to any forensic bookshelf...
Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man, 7th Edition by Randall C. Baselt. Hard Bound, 7" x 10" Biomedical Publications, P.O. Box 8299, Foster City, CA 94404, U.S.A, Tel/. Email: biopub@lycos.com. Publication Date 2004; xviii + 1254 pages: ISBN 0-9626523-6-9, Library of Congress Control Number 2003115920: Price $139.50

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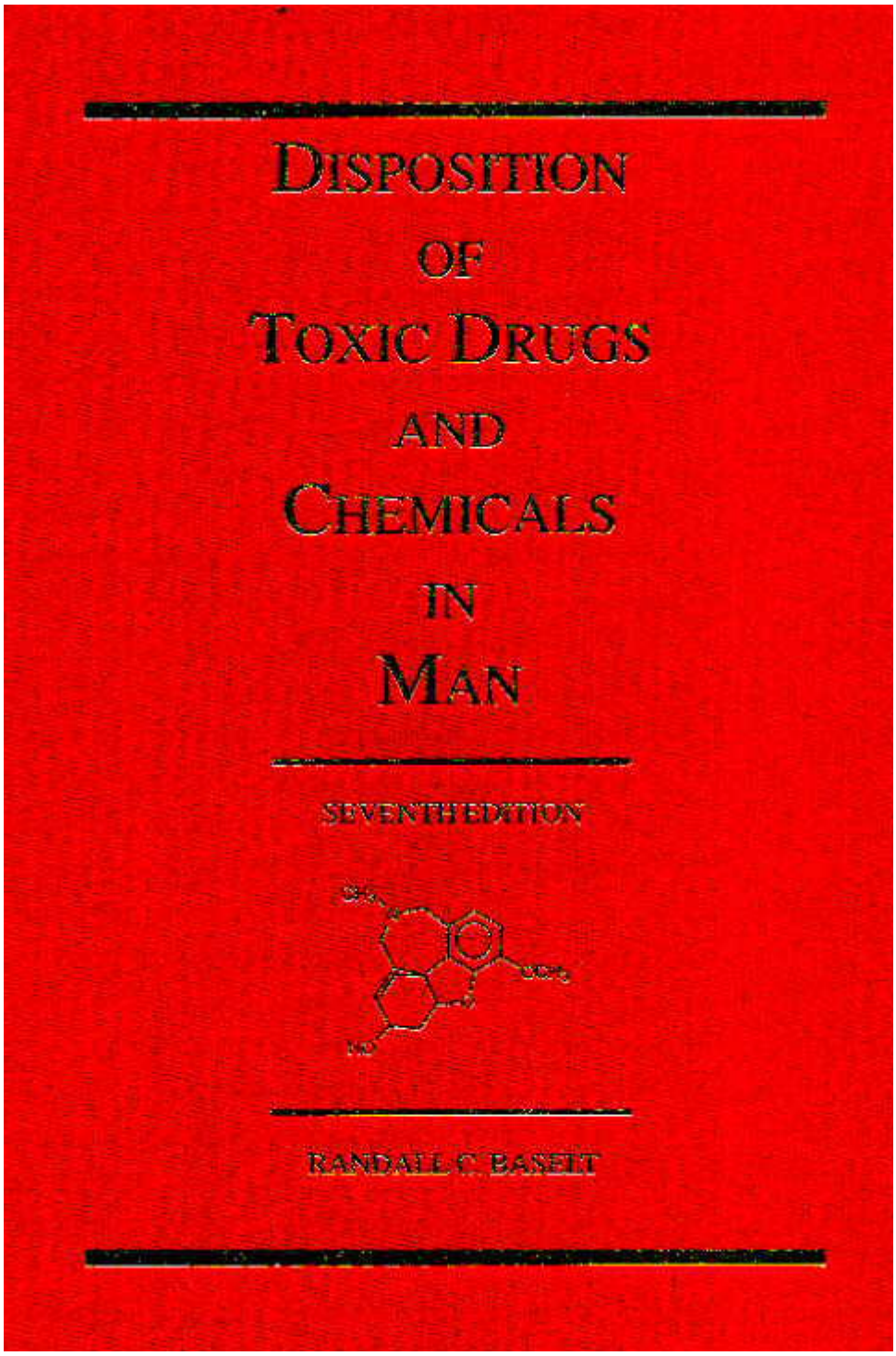
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For the Review of *Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man, 5th Edition* , 2000, (Chemical Toxicology Institute) by Randall C. Baselt (Please click here) - *Review by Anil Aggrawal, India*

For the Review of *Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man, 6th Edition* , 2002, (Biomedical Publications) by Randall C. Baselt (Please click here)- *Review by Ronald Wright, USA*

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The toxicological examination and assessment of body samples or fluids continues to grow in importance, not only in forensic medicine but emergency medicine also. The ability to detect and quantify the presence of both naturally occurring toxins, narcotics and, increasingly, therapeutic agents has been aided through the development of improved and more sensitive analytical methods. However, the interpretation of the concentrations present remains a difficult task, as is evident when considering possible causes of death during medico-legal autopsies. A seventh edition of Randall Baselts' "Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man" is therefore a welcomed arrival. This text aims to produce a single volume providing necessary and up-to-date information regarding frequently encountered chemicals in poisoning.

The text is organized alphabetically by generic American name (though an index allows cross-reference through additional international names) and is readily accessible, both in layout and in content. Chemical information of each drug is supplemented with concise information regarding its history and use, and followed by a review of the physiological routes of metabolism and excretion. The reported therapeutic concentrations in various body fluids, together with potential toxic ranges, are provided together with references for each compound in question allowing further reading when required. Brief information regarding analytical techniques for each completes this well conceived and produced text.

With an addition of nearly 140 new compounds to this edition, including some pesticides, herbal medicines and chemotherapeutic agents, this textbook forms an excellent and accessible source of information for the clinician, forensic scientist, pathologist or toxicologist alike. Though it may not provide a definite conclusion when considering a borderline-toxicity associated death, (especially when complicated by the presence of polypharmacy), the information it contains certainly contributes greatly to the decision making and is thus a highly recommended addition to any forensic bookshelf..



-Benjamin Swift
Dr. Benjamin Swift is on the editorial board of Anil Aggrawal's Internet Journal of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology. Click image to have more information about him.

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