

## BOOK REVIEW

### **Clinical Pharmacy Practice – Essential Concepts and Skills**

Edited by: G.Pardhasarathi, Karin Nyfort-Hansen and Milap C. Nahata  
496 pages, ISBN No. 81 250 2631 2, price Rs.430/-  
Orient Longman Private Limited  
3-6-752 Himayatnagar, Hyderabad-500029.  
hyd2\_orlongco@sancharnet.in

About thirty international authors contributed in formulating 27 chapters distributed over three sections. Apparently the manuscript was pre-reviewed by a good number of eminent clinical pharmacists (many international experts) and the end users (PG students of Pharmacy Practice). This has perhaps helped in giving excellent professional look to the book.

The editors have clearly indicated in the preface that the main aim of this text book is to provide the readers with a comprehensive description of the concepts and skills that the foundation for current clinical pharmacy practice. I suppose they kept their promise!

If not many, good number of text books has been published in recent times internationally including a few in India (as Hospital & Clinical Pharmacy text books). This book is altogether different in its approach towards the practice of clinical pharmacy. It deviates fundamentally from the rest in addressing issues related to the concepts and skills that a pharmacist should develop in the practice rather than acquiring more information related to drugs and their pharmacology.

Section I is introduction, which consists of two chapters gives an overall view of the profession of pharmacy in general and clinical pharmacy in particular in India and developed countries. The authors indicate that the professional pharmacists are under utilized in the health care system in India and point out that better awareness is required in the society and among physicians regarding what the clinical pharmacy could contribute to the patient care. In the international scenario the reasons for the growth of this profession have been mainly attributed to two factors 1. A large increase in number of drugs and 2. Increase in the complexity of therapy which demands safety and efficacy.

Section II comprises of Essential concepts and skills

for clinical pharmacy practice, which makes the core of the text book. This section has eighteen chapters and covers varied topics like key competencies and communication skills required by the pharmacist, how patient counseling is to be undertaken, what measures that the clinical pharmacist, serving as bridge between the physician and the pharmacist should take in order to make the patient adhere to the regimen. Common but important issues and problems in pharmacological intervention like, rational drug use and the concept of essential drugs, adverse drug reactions and drug interactions have been dealt with in a methodical fashion. There is an exclusive chapter on drug therapy review (DTR) which gives approaches to maximize effectiveness and safety of drug therapy. DTR is known to serve as basis for identifying many drug related issues and problems of the patient (like ADR, TDM etc.).

Two chapters have covered interpretation of laboratory investigations, which is also one of important arms of clinical pharmacist. The first one deals with various biochemical and hematological findings to be understood and utilized in optimizing drug therapy. The second chapter deals with investigations related to microbial infections including HIV.

Chapters on pediatric and geriatric pharmacy practice are very informative. They give insights into the differences in pharmacokinetics and -dynamics in these two extreme age groups and how this understanding could help in patient care optimal.

In addition, section II also gives a lucid presentation on topics like ward round participation, literature evaluation, and drug information, concepts of clinical pharmacokinetics, therapeutic drug monitoring and continuing education for clinical pharmacists.

Section III deals with concepts and skills for advanced clinical pharmacists. A student who is well versed with basic concepts and skills acquired through training received as per guidelines indicated in the earlier section is now ready for advanced concepts and skills: This section deals with the present trends of research in clinical pharmacy, drug utilization review in hospital setup, pharmacoeconomics (which is now emerging as one of important branches in pharmacy practice world over), medication errors and therapeutic guidelines. The last chapter deals with the PG education in pharmacy practice which has become priority of

the hour in improving health care system. It deals with various options and paths available for imparting education and training at different levels including different fellowships and guidelines (like semester wise planning).

In all, this book is different, distinct and lucid. It is going to be one of real first line books on Clinical Pharmacy. The expertise, backed with hands on clinical experience of the authors makes this text book a real treatise.

The students, teachers and practitioners of Clinical Pharmacy in India and abroad should have this valuable possession on their reading table and this book is very reasonably priced.

**Devarakonda R. Krishna, M.Pharm, PhD**  
**Professor of Pharmacy, Kakatiya University, University College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Warangal-506009.**

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Journal of Postgraduate Medicine, official publication of Staff Society of Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital, India, has the distinction of completing 50 years of publication in 2004. As a part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Journal, a conference on writing, editing, e-publishing and open access is being organized in September 2004. This will be first of its kind of event in a developing country and is being supported by Open Society Institute (OSI), International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) and World Association of Medical Editors (WAME).

- Title : JPGM GOLD CON: 50 years of medical writing-International conference on medical writing, editing and publishing
- Organisers : Journal of Postgraduate Medicine
- Dates : 23rd-26th September 2004
- Venue : Mumbai, India
- Website : <http://www.jpgmonline.com/goldcon.asp>
- Main topics : Medical writing, editing, journal publishing, electronic publishing, open access, publication ethics
- Contact : Dr. Atul Goel, Department of Neurosurgery, Seth G.S. Medical College, Parel, Mumbai – 400 012, INDIA.  
Phone: 91-22-24129884, Fax: 91-22-25032398,  
Email: [goldcon@jpgmonline.com](mailto:goldcon@jpgmonline.com)