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BOOK REVIEW

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Applied Pharmacokinetics: Principles of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, edited by W. E. Evans, J. J. Schentag, W. J. Jusko; Applied Therapeutics, Inc., San Francisco, California, 708 pp. and Basic Clinical Pharmacokinetics by Michael E. Winter; Applied Therapeutics, Inc., San Francisco, California, 231 pp.

Although these two texts have been written by different groups of authors, they represent excellent companion books for clinicians interested in the application of pharmacokinetic principles to therapeutics. The text Basic Clinical Pharmacokinetics appears to be intended for clinicians with little experience in the application of pharmacokinetic principles. In fact, this text is divided into two sections: Part I - Basic Concepts and Part II - Pharmacokinetics of Specific Drugs. The basic concepts of drug half life and elimination, bioavailability, clearance, interpretation of plasma drug concentrations and volume of distribution are clearly discussed for the reader not versed in these areas. The second half of this text illustrates these principles with specific applications to drugs commonly dosed using clinical pharmacokinetic principles.

The text, Applied Pharmacokinetics: Principles of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring covers all of the drugs discussed in the Basic Clinical Pharmacokinetics text and includes a discussion of all of the current literature on each drug. This book consists of twenty chapters each written by a well known expert in clinical pharmacokinetics. This text, in a manner similar to the companion text, can be divided into two sections: basic pharmacokinetic concepts (chapters 1-5) and specific drug pharmacokinetic reviews (chapters 6-20). All chapters in this text are well written and referenced with up to date literature citations. Although this book was written by a large number of contributers, all of the chapters are similar in style and material covered. Each chapter critically discusses available drug assay techniques, published pharmacokinetic reports and methods for drug dosage regimen design. In addition, several drugs, i.e. theophylline, the aminoglycosides and lidocaine have several chapters of "counterpoint" discussion by other experts to provide alternative viewpoints on the interpretation of clinical pharmacokinetic data.

Both of these texts would be a valuable addition to the library of clinicans performing clinical pharmacokinetic services. The text Basic Clinical Pharmacokinetics would be an excellent choice for a textbook for an introductory course in Clinical Pharmacokinetics for undergraduates, the text Applied Pharmacokinetics could be used for a course for either advanced undergraduate students or graduate students.

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