

BOOK REVIEWS

Lecture Notes on Clinical Pharmacology, 6th Edition, by John L. Reid, P. Rubin and Brian Whiting. Blackwell Science, Oxford, 2001. Paperback, 328 pages. Price: £15.95. ISBN 0-632-05077-2.

This volume is suitable for medical students, junior doctors, general practitioners and allied health professionals who want a concise introduction to the subject of clinical pharmacology and the latest information on new and withdrawn drugs. This book provides the reader with all the necessary information to achieve a thorough understanding of how drugs work, their interaction with the body in health and disease, and how to use these drugs appropriately in clinical situations. Now in its 6th edition, this volume maintains the successful formula of the previous editions, bridging the gap between laboratory science and the bedside, and providing an easy-to-use format. Topics are grouped into sections to allow quick reference for revision and logical progression for more in-depth study. This highly regarded book will continue to be a firm favourite with all those who require a clear and practical understanding of clinical pharmacology. Drug chapters are organised by body system and disease class; three chapters at the end cover self-poisoning, the medico-legal aspects of prescribing, and adverse drug reactions.

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Medical Pharmacology at a Glance, 4th Edition, by Michael J. Neal. Blackwell Science, Oxford, 2002. Paperback, 104 pages. Price: £13.95. ISBN: 0-632-05244-9.

This well illustrated volume, in the “**At a Glance**” series, is suitable for undergraduate medical and pharmacology students seeking a text for revision. Following the success of the previous three editions, Professor Neal has extensively revised and updated the 4th edition to take account of the rapid developments in the field. This useful book summarises the core principles of the mode of action of drugs and puts this information within the context of body systems and specific clinical problems. The author discusses the mechanisms of action of each drug, indicating the therapeutics of choice for specific conditions. Each section contains a clear illustration depicting the major drugs and their interactions within a particular body system and a concise account of the topic.

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