

BOOK REVIEW

Nuclear Medicine Review Syllabus. P.T. Kirchner (Ed). Published by the Society of Nuclear Medicine, 475 Park Avenue South, New York, 1980, Pp 619, £30.00

This book should prove to be a valuable contribution to nuclear medicine. It is not intended to be a conventional text book, but rather an update. It is a review of the major advances that have occurred during the 1970's, and is aimed primarily at helping the physician who wishes to maintain a high level of competence in this rapidly growing and changing field.

The venture was initiated by the Society of Nuclear Medicine in 1976, and over 50 acknowledged experts worked in teams for 3 years to produce chapters on a well selected range of specialities. These cover radiopharmacology, instrumentation, radiation effects, endocrinology, gastroenterology, haematology-oncology, and radioimmunoassay, and the cardiovascular, genito-urinary, pulmonary, skeletal, and central nervous systems. The chapters include discussions on methodology, radiopharmaceuticals, and types of clinical study. Each section contains enough information to whet the appetite, and is followed by a bibliography laid out neatly in sub-sections, covering important "state of the art" publications of the past decade.

It is fortunate that most nuclear medical experts are inherently receptive to new technology because, reading the book, one is reminded again of the very rapid progress that has been made in the field over the past few years. The book should certainly succeed in its aim of helping practising physicians, but should also be of value to scientists working on radiopharmaceuticals and should stimulate continued developments into the 1980's. The few omissions from recent years in the book only help to emphasise the need for this type of update, and the Society of Nuclear Medicine should be encouraged to repeat this very helpful exercise in future years.

J. Alan Peacegood
The Radiochemical Centre Limited
Amersham
Bucks
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