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The Book Corner

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THE BOOK CORNER

CAPILLARY ELECTROPHORESIS THEORY AND PRACTICE, Second Edition, P. Camilleri, ed., CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida, 1997, 552 pp., \$129.95.

Dr. Camilleri is an expert in separation science. The above book, which he edited, deals mostly with practical and applied aspects of capillary electrophoresis. He selected an excellent group of scientists to write chapters in their areas of expertise. Although the book title mentions theory and practice, there is not a single chapter devoted to the CE theory in the book. However, the book outlines the basic theoretical aspects of the separation and detection methodology of CE in the individual, applied chapters.

Throughout the ten chapters, the applicability of this technique is demonstrated for the analysis of a range of analytes differing widely in physicochemical properties, such as size, charge, and hydrophobicity. Chapters dealing with the CE analysis of inorganic ions and carbohydrates have also been included in this edition. The extensive and detailed coverage of the literature for each of the topics covered makes this book an excellent reference work. As in the first edition, three appendices have been included to enhance the practical aspects of the book.

Appendix I presents a list of CE suppliers, and Appendix II tabulates a number of buffer solutions suitable for CE. In Appendix III, experiments have been designed that are suitable for university or college students, or anyone else who wishes to become familiar with CE.

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Editor
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HANDBOOK OF ANALYTICAL THERAPEUTIC DRUG MONITORING AND TOXICOLOGY, S. H. Y. Wong, I. Sunshine, eds., CRC Press, 1997, 354 pp., \$79.95.

In the Preface to this handbook, the editors justify its writing by the following statement: "Adapting modern advances in analytical techniques to daily laboratory practice challenges many toxicologists, clinical laboratory and pharmaceutical scientists. Just keeping abreast of these many innovative changes is difficult for most overtaxed toxicology and clinical laboratory directors. In an effort to help remedy these deficiencies, *The Handbook of Analytical Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Toxicology* was conceived."

The editors add, "competent practitioners have distilled from their special skills and experience, definitive chapters on the current state of the art in their respective areas of expertise. Preview of these articles will provide readers not only with a comprehensive and well-documented survey of what other investigators have reported, but also with each author's critical evaluation of the potential and limitations of the area surveyed. Modern information retrieval procedures, if available to the reader, may capture many of the articles discussed in the reviews, but time and workplace demands preclude how this material may be applied to the local scene. This volume simplifies the search process, describes many significant recent contributions, and provides evaluations and counsel that are otherwise difficult to obtain. These evaluations of the pros and cons of these many advances and how they apply to various analytes will help readers determine their suitability to a particular laboratory."

I agree with the editors that this handbook offers insights and useful applications of modern analytical techniques to toxicology and clinical laboratories. It is written by experienced scientists. The handbook is divided into 19 chapters, dealing with different aspects of drug monitoring in widely varied matrices, from saliva to hair. There are two chapters (7 and 14) dealing with analysis of hair (see contents). I am not sure why the editors did not put these chapters to follow each other. Also, I think the editors should have had an introductory chapter explaining their philosophy on organizing this handbook.

Overall, the handbook is useful and recommended. It is free from errors and gross mistakes.

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