

Book Review: Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man—Tenth Edition

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Submitted by Dwain Fuller—ToxTalk® Editor

The “Red Book” or “Baselt”, as it is often called, has been a staple of the forensic toxicologist’s and pathologist’s library since well before my career began in 1984, and now **Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man** (DTDCM) is in its tenth edition. Those who have followed its transformation over the years will not be disappointed by the current incarnation. If you happen to be an edition or two behind, as was I, you will be favorably impressed by the inclusion of easy-to-find blood/plasma ratios that began with the eighth edition, and CAS numbers, empirical formulas and molecular weights, which are new to the tenth edition. Although I have always been a fan of **DTDCM**, I have at times been critical of the way some practitioners have attempted to apply the data they found there. Therefore, I was

pleased to see the addition of a prologue by Dr. Robert Flanagan and Dr. Robin Whelpton on the interpretation of results. This prologue first appeared in the ninth edition and has been updated and expanded for the tenth.

The tenth edition contains an additional 280 substances beyond the ninth edition for a total of over 1500 unique chemical substances. The new entries include antidotes, artificial sweeteners, dietary supplements, flavoring agents, industrial contaminants, plant alkaloids, and new recreational drugs, to name but a few. Even though the tenth edition contains 2350 pages, the book retains its one volume format, and although not small, its heft has been offset to some extent by the use of thinner page stock. In answer to the widely

asked question, **DTDCM** is not available in an electronic format, due to the lack of sufficient copy protection technology at this juncture. However, owners of the print edition are welcomed to request searches or copies of specific sections by email, when needed.

In short, the tenth edition of **Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man** continues to be an invaluable and essential resource for the forensic toxicologist and pathologist, and the tenth edition is even easier to use and will not disappoint.

Copies may be ordered from Atlas Books, P.O. Box 388, Ashland, Ohio 44805 <http://www.bookmasters.com/marktplc/00431.htm>

The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO) Update

Submitted by Laurel Farrell, BA

This has been a hectic and activity filled year for the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO), however, due to Congress’s inability to act on any legislation most forensic initiatives are pending. Below is a summary of CFSO activities relating to both authorization and funding.

AUTHORIZATION

Justice For All Act houses most

forensics legislation. The CFSO has been working with both the House and Senate to ensure Coverdell is in any forensic reauthorization legislation that passes.

* Coverdell is at risk in this back and forth with the House and Senate. It is very important for SOFT Members to educate their Members of the House on forensic toxicology’s need for

Coverdell funding. The victims advocate groups have been able to consistently raise the matter of rape kits to the highest level of DOJ and thus receive the lion’s share of funding.

Community Oriented Policing

Services (COPS) is up for reauthorization again and a bill has been introduced in the House and