

BOOK REVIEW**Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man 11th edition**

Randall C. Baselt

When Dr. Baselt e-mailed me to inform me that a new edition of his book, *Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man* had been completed, my initial reaction was amazement. Given the fact that this was the 11th edition and that previous editions of the book have been available to forensic toxicologists since the late 1970s, it is incredible that he has maintained the dedication and stamina to continue this daunting endeavor. This task became even more overwhelming with the advent of the novel psychoactive substance proliferation over the past several years.

There are approximately 1800 monographs in the 11th edition. This is an increase of 275 monographs from the 10th edition. The Table of Contents is 17 pages long, two columns per page, listing all of the monographs. Included are new monographs on drugs of abuse, therapeutic drugs, pesticides, industrial chemicals and dietary supplements. To put this in

a historical perspective, the first edition of the book contained approximately 200 monographs, divided up between centrally-acting and peripherally-acting compounds. As expected, the 11th edition contains both published and unpublished information on newer novel psychoactive substances: bath salts, phenylalkylamines and opioids. There is a single monograph on synthetic cannabinoids as many of these compounds have common metabolic pathways and effects. The structure of the book has remained essentially unchanged throughout the history of the book. Each monograph contains 5 sections: Occurrence and Usage, Blood Concentrations, Metabolism and Excretion, Toxicity, and Analysis. At the end of each monograph is a list of references that enables the reader to seek more information if required. Prior to the monographs, there is a chapter written by Drs. Robert Flanagan and Robin Whelpton on Guidelines for the Interpretation of Analytical Toxicology Results. This first appeared in the 9th edition and

serves to provide context for the information in the monographs. Finally, a new feature in this edition is a table that lists the CAS numbers for all of the compounds in the book. The purpose is to assist the reader in finding the desired monograph.

In the publication announcement, Dr. Baselt stated that "The purpose of this work is to present in a single convenient source the current essential information on the disposition of chemicals and drugs most frequently encountered in episodes of human poisoning." As with previous editions, Dr. Baselt has succeeded in that goal. The forensic toxicology community owes Dr. Baselt an enormous debt of gratitude for his enduring service to the field with his continued work on this book.

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In Memoriam —Robert Charles Meatherall, Ph.D.

Robert Charles Meatherall passed away peacefully on January 28, 2017. Robert is survived by his wife Patricia, daughter Bonnie, son Stephen (his partner Amanda Verhaeghe), and brother-in-law William Stephen. Born July 6, 1947 in London, Ontario, Robert was the only child of Charles and Freda Meatherall, of Ingersoll, Ontario (both deceased) Robert or "Dr. Bob", as he was known to those who worked closely with him, was employed for 38 years as a Clinical Toxicologist at St. Boniface Hospital. He received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from McMaster University in 1974. He was an avid fisherman and curling enthusiast. Robert will be remembered for his wit and wry sense of humour. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the ALS Society of Manitoba at www.alsmb.ca

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