

## Book Review

Randall C. Baselt. *Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man*, Eleventh Edition. Biomedical Publications, Seal Beach, CA, US\$349.50, 2410 pp., ISBN 978-0-692-77499-1.

One wonders when is the time to put an author's name in front of a textbook title? In the world of toxicology, there is Casarett and Doull's Toxicology, Goldfrank's Toxicologic Emergencies, Garriott's Medicolegal Aspects of Alcohol and a few other go-to references. Curiously, and in keeping with his character and demeanor, Dr Baselt chooses not to include his name in this, or other editions', titles. But, it is hard to imagine a more go-to book in the bio-analytical toxicology domain than Baselt's *Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man*. The 11th Edition of this life-long work builds significantly on past editions.

An additional 275 new monographs have been added to the book, bringing the total to an amazing almost 1,800 compounds. This number pales the ~250 compounds in the first edition in 1978, which at the time was an incredible feat. To accommodate these additions, the total page count has increased by 160 adding ~1/8" to the width of the textbook and allowing for a continued single volume. At the end of the alphabetized monographs appears an addendum with an additional 17 abbreviated monographs, presumably placed there after the formal part of the book was completed, but they are searchable in the index. These include some of the newer compounds encountered in the world of forensic toxicology. To this end, the 11th Edition has incorporated a number of novel psychoactive substances. More impressively, Dr Baselt has included a significant number of new compounds spanning the toxicological spectrum, from pesticides to dietary supplements to industrial toxicants and more. This should serve as a ready reminder to practicing forensic toxicologists that our world far exceeds drug substances.

While the general format of the monographs has stayed relatively constant, there have been some improvements for the reader. First and foremost, the font has changed from Times New Roman to Arial. While the font size appears to have stayed the same from the

10th Edition, the mere change in style makes the text much more pleasing to the eye and more easily discernible. The shaded pages also help in these respects. A nice addition to the book is a list of abbreviations that appears in the first few pages. These abbreviations appear throughout the text, including the updated Guidelines for Interpretation of Analytical Toxicology Results authored by Drs Flanagan and Whelpton. An index of CAS numbers that cross-references compound name and page number has also been added. As an added option, there are some searchable tools at the Biomedical Publications website (<http://www.biomedicalpublications.com/>) to assist readers to easily cross-match CAS numbers, compound names and page numbers.

The 11th Edition of *Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man* improves upon past editions cementing the book as one of the most used references by forensic, clinical and medical toxicologists, forensic pathologists, attorneys and anyone else needing a ready reference related to a vast array of toxicants that humans may be exposed to. In his preface, Dr Baselt is effusive with his thanks to his colleagues for assistance with the book. However, it is only through his personal efforts that we have this remarkable tool, that which between editions has a binding so worn that sometimes tape is the only remedy available to us. Almost all of us refer to this invaluable text merely as "Baselt". In fact, it is as if the *Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man* is an afterthought in daily practice. Perhaps, it is the time for the community to insist on a new title—"Baselt's *Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man*". This title is deserved not only in its formality, but as a tribute to the author's continued efforts.

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