

BOOK REVIEWS

A CLINICAL MANUAL OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE. J.M. Walker, D. Margouloff, Eds. Norwalk, CT, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1983, 300 pp, \$22.50

This small, compact, soft-bound book, part of the series of the publishers' *Clinical Manuals*, is attractive in appearance and content. The manual does not attempt to cover all phases of nuclear medicine, but rather focuses on the nuclear imaging studies in common use. Many scholarly works lose their readers in a mine of minutiae and rare tidbits.

At the beginning of each chapter, there is a tabular display of the agent used for each study. This feature summarizes the gamma emission energies, the half-life, and the radiation dose to the patient. In general, the photographs are excellent, although a few are too dark. Surprisingly, little reference is made to other comparable or competitive imaging modalities. There is no significant mention of radioassays, thyroid therapy, or the conversion from non-SI units to SI units. I found that most of my own observations and philosophy regarding nuclear medicine are reflected in this text. There are a few points I could question, e.g., the statement that the decreased tracer uptake in colloidal liver images, which results from radiation therapy, is usually transient. It is striking, however, how much more of a consensus exists in the interpretation and meaning of studies as compared with the works of earlier years.

There is an important advantage of a simple, straightforward book such as this—it tends to emphasize the well-established truths and the common diseases. The work is conservative and classic in mode of presentation and is suitable for a wide range of readers who have an interest in nuclear medicine. It can be profitably read or used as a reference by medical students, hospital housestaff, and practitioners. The editors and their associates are to be commended for their work.

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MANUAL OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE PROCEDURES (4th Edition). J.E. Carey, Jr., R.C. Kline, J.W. Keyes, Jr. Boca Raton, FL, CRC Press, 1983, pp 231, \$39.50 U.S./\$45.00 Foreign

The fourth edition of the *CRC Manual of Nuclear Medicine Procedures* continues in the tradition of previous editions by providing a well-organized, general, technical manual for the clinical nuclear medicine laboratory. It covers all of the common nuclear medicine procedures as well as most of the less frequently requested studies. The editorship has been expanded to include Drs. Carey and Kline in addition to Dr. Keyes, who edited the 3rd edition. The list of contributing authors has been expanded from ten to 21.

Although the format is identical to that of previous editions, significant modifications have been made, which, as stated in the introduction, reflect the changing character of nuclear medicine. Many new procedures have been added, e.g., bone densitometry, lower gastrointestinal bleeding, diuretic renography, and indium leukocyte imaging. A few procedures have been appropriately eliminated, including those involving pancreas and placenta

scanning. The chapter on hepatobiliary imaging has been totally revised. The section entitled "Cardiac Procedures" has been rearranged into a more practical format, and the vascular procedures have been moved to a separate section.

The in vitro procedures section, not surprisingly, has changed only slightly from that in the third edition. Quality control related to the rectilinear scanner is phased out, and a new chapter, "Computer-Based Imaging System Quality Control and Prevention Maintenance," has been added. The final part of the book is similar to the third edition—it contains practical guides to various problems relevant to the operation of a nuclear medicine laboratory, e.g., emergency procedures for radioactive spills, radioactive waste disposal, combined studies, etc.

Overall, the book continues to be right on the mark in accomplishing its intended goal of providing a useful working reference for the clinical nuclear medicine laboratory. Noted deficiencies include a lack of references for specific procedures and the absence of a discussion of quality control for patient dose calibrators and ^{99}Mo - $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ generator systems. These deficiencies are far outweighed by the positive features of the book, and I would recommend that it be included in every clinical nuclear medicine laboratory library.

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RECENT ADVANCES IN NUCLEAR MEDICINE (Volume 6). J.H. Lawrence, H.S. Winchell, Eds. New York, NY, Grune & Stratton, 1983, 210 pp, \$49.50

This is the sixth volume of a series initiated and edited continuously by John Lawrence since 1948. This volume contains individually authored articles covering a wide variety of topics ranging from erythropoietin radioimmunoassay to pediatric nuclear medicine.

"Advances in Radionuclide Therapy" discusses the use of I-131 for hyperthyroidism and thyroid carcinoma, and of P-32 for polycythemia vera, ovarian and prostate carcinoma, and malignant effusions. The Y-90 treatment of inflammatory joint disease and craniopharyngiomas is also highlighted. A discussion of the treatment of metastatic adrenergic tumors with MIBG and the current status of monoclonal antibodies conclude the review. This chapter varies considerably in depth, and the interested reader desiring more detail will need to search elsewhere in several instances. "Radionuclides in the Diagnosis of Adrenergic Tumors" is a well-written review of the origin, function, clinical features, and diagnosis of pheochromocytomas, with emphasis on the use of MIBG. "The Functional Characterization of the Adrenal Cortex by Quantitative Scintigraphy," describes in convincing fashion the mechanism by which NP-59 uptake can be isolated within the cortex's functional zones, and that NP-59's activity reflects each zone's functional status. The illustrations are well integrated with the text. "Radionuclide Evaluation of Renal Disease" details the radiopharmaceuticals available and their clinical applications in this area. The comparison of nuclear