

Technetium and Rhenium in Chemistry and Nuclear Medicine 4. M. Nicolini, G. Bandoli and U. Mazzi, editors. Servizi Grafici Editoriali, Padova, Italy, 614 pages, (contact publisher for price), 1995.

This volume presents the proceedings of the Fourth International Symposium on Technetium in Chemistry and Nuclear Medicine, held in Bressanone, Italy in September 1994. It includes 109 short papers divided into three sections, entitled Technetium and Rhenium Chemistry, ^{99m}Tc and $^{186/188}\text{Re}$ -Radiopharmaceuticals and ^{99m}Tc and $^{186/188}\text{Re}$ -Radiopharmaceuticals in Nuclear Medicine. Contributing authors hail from around the globe. Approximately 80% of the papers focus on technetium and 20% are concerned with rhenium. The editors are to be congratulated for turning the manuscripts of this symposium into a published book in less than 8 mo, resulting in an extremely timely collection of papers which represent the cutting-edge of research in this field. The 48 papers on technetium and rhenium chemistry provide the reader with a good picture of the state-of-the-art chemistry applications. The 44 papers in the section on ^{99m}Tc and $^{186/188}\text{Re}$ -radiopharmaceuticals include papers on the chemistry behind the development of the myocardial perfusion agent Q12, receptor-binding peptides and other molecules, blood flow tracers, nitrido complexes, therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals for bone pain palliation and the production of ^{188}Re . The 17 papers on ^{99m}Tc and $^{186/188}\text{Re}$ -radiopharmaceuticals in nuclear medicine include a review by T.F. Budinger on dynamic SPECT and how this procedure has expanded the information that can be obtained from studies using ^{99m}Tc radiopharmaceuticals. This section also includes papers on technetium-labeled peptides, radiolabeled antisense probes, immunoglobulins labeled with rhenium or technetium and radiopharmaceuticals for the palliation of bone pain. The book ends with a round table discussion on "The Interrelationship of Radiopharmacy, Radiochemistry and Nuclear Medicine" as it applies to Europe. The list of participants and their addresses at the back of the book provides a useful compendium of those actively involved in research in the field.

This book will be of interest mainly to chemists involved in the application of technetium and rhenium chemistry to nuclear medicine. It may, however, also be of interest to others wishing to educate themselves in the state-of-the-art.

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Nuclear Medicine—The Requisites. James H. Thrall and Harvey A. Ziessman, Mosby, St. Louis, MO, 371 pages, \$79.00, 1995.

This book lives up to its title. The authors' intention to "provide a scope or span of information that can serve as an introductory knowledge base for the field" is fulfilled most adequately.

The book is well-structured and devotes due attention to all clinical aspects of nuclear medicine. The chapters are lucid, and the tables, diagrams and figures enhance the text without cluttering the layout. The information provided is adequate for a thorough understanding of routine clinical nuclear medicine practice.

That this book does not dwell on the esoteric aspects of our specialty adds to its strength: it exhorts us that one must not think of zebras when one hears hoofbeats. To further round out this analogy, the sounds of all equine subspecies are listed.

This book should be given to every resident starting a career in nuclear medicine as its individual chapters can be used as foci for seminar discussions. Community hospitals with nuclear medicine departments should also have a copy of the book to become acquainted with the sometimes confusing array of commonplace or rare nuclear medicine procedures.

This book is highly recommended to all nuclear medicine physicians. It illustrates that brevity can be the soul of focused information.

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Nuclear Medicine in Clinical Diagnosis and Treatment, volumes 1 and 2. I.P.C. Murray and P.J. Ell, editors. Churchill Livingstone, New York, NY, 1388 pages, \$249, 1994.

This book brings together an outstanding international group of contributors who are among the foremost authorities in the field. It is impressive with the broad experience and knowledge upon which it draws.

A major thrust of the book is to provide an understanding of the role of nuclear medicine in clinical practice, focusing on basic principles as well as techniques and applications in clinical and research settings.

The book addresses many contemporary issues and provides a comprehensive survey of the field. The text is divided into eight sections which cover the basic sciences, nuclear cardiology, disorders of bones and joint, renal disorders, tumor diagnosis and therapy, neurological and psychiatric disorders, studies in gastrointestinal function and the application of nuclear medicine in acute care settings. The sections are broken down into 114 chapters, each discussing individual problem areas. Each section is well organized and concisely written, bringing forth timely new developments in the field and reflecting the tight control of the editors.

Several strengths of the book are that it is written to include the clinical utility of the field in the overall management of patients while providing sufficient information on the technical aspects of each study. Chapters are well illustrated, include useful tables and contain enhanced bibliographic citations.

Such an encyclopedic book as this, however, inevitably faces compromises. The physical dimensions and weight of the book are limiting factors for a book one would like to use as a reference source. This might be readily overcome in the future if the book were available in electronic form.

In summary, it was a pleasure to review this well-referenced book which provides valuable information for individuals wishing to keep abreast of developments in nuclear medicine. The resources of an outstanding team of editors, contributors and medical publishers clearly helped in pulling this book together. It fills an important void as an up-to-date reference source for practitioners in nuclear medicine and radiology.

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