
FOREWORD

John Trounce, who was the senior author of the first edition of this textbook, died on the 16 April 2007.

He considered a text in clinical pharmacology suitable for his undergraduate and postgraduate students to be an important part of the programme he developed in his department at Guy's Hospital Medical School, London. It is difficult to imagine today how much resistance from the medical and pharmacological establishments Trounce had to overcome in order to set up an academic department, a focussed course in the medical curriculum and a separate exam in final MB in clinical pharmacology. In other words, he helped to change a 'non-subject' into one of the most important areas of study for medical students. He was also aware of the need for a high quality textbook in clinical pharmacology that could also be used by nurses, pharmacists, pharmacology science students and doctors preparing for higher qualifications. (For example, it has been said that nobody knows more about acute pharmacology than an anaesthetist.)

The present edition of the textbook reflects the advances in therapeutics since the publication of the fourth edition. It is interesting to follow in all the editions of the book, for example, how the treatment of tumours has progressed. It was about the time of the first edition that Trounce set up the first oncology clinic at Guy's Hospital in which he investigated the value of combined radiation and chemotherapy and drug cocktails in the treatment of lymphomas. John Trounce was pleased to see his textbook (and his subject) in the expert hands of Professor Ritter and his colleagues.

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