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Book Review

Clinical Chemistry Edited by David White, Nigel Lawson, Paul Master and Daniel McLaughlin, Published by Garland Science, Taylor & Francis Group, LLC, an informa business, New York, NY, USA, ISBN 9780815365105, 587 pp, ©2017

The book by White and colleagues is a concise textbook in clinical chemistry for medical students, clinicians, laboratory technologists, clinical chemistry trainees and faculty in laboratory medicine. This first edition is divided into 25 chapters, with additional sections for common abbreviations (which are very helpful) and an index.

Each chapter begins with an outline of the major sub-topics that will be covered. The first chapter defines clinical chemistry and its various applications and discusses the overall operation of a clinical chemistry laboratory, including pre-analytical and analytical topics with additional introductory text on quality assurance, quality control and accreditation. The rest of the book covers different topics in clinical chemistry discussing mostly the pathophysiological processes and biochemical changes that occur in disease. Also each chapter, which are divided for the most part based on the key biochemical analyte or the organ, also include reference intervals for many of the commonly measured biochemical analytes (SI units and conventional units) that are relevant per the chapter.

The inclusion of many useful and easily identifiable tables throughout the book helps to summarize the text and can serve as a quick reference for the reader. In addition to the helpful tables, there are many cases, questions and case discussions which further facilitate the learning of the subject matter and also at times integrates topics covered in different chapters. Of fundamental importance to anyone studying clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine are the clinical and analytical practice points scattered throughout the chapters which reiterate useful clinical and analytical key points for specific disorders and analytes. Another useful feature within this textbook are the easy to understand figures and cartoons which again can serve as a quick reference for the reader on a specific topic. One chapter that particularly caught my attention was Chapter 19: "Disorders of Immunoglobulins and Complement"; as not many chemical chemistry textbooks discuss this subject to the same extent as the authors have in this textbook.

Overall, I found the book very informative and a good preparatory guide for the clinical part of examinations. It is, however, light on the analytical aspect of testing so other textbooks and resources are needed here. In summary, the book is easy to read and serves a role in the learning of clinical chemistry for those interested in laboratory medicine.

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