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THIRD EDITION

CASE FILES™ Pharmacology

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To Dr. Larry C. Gilstrap III, whose encouragement is largely responsible for my writing this series of books. He has been a personal inspiration, mentor, and role model of an outstanding physician, teacher, and leader; and to Dr. Edward Yeomans, who has been a dear friend and gleaming light of brilliance in obstetrics.

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—ASP

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Assistant Professor Department of Internal Medicine Division of Medicine and Psychiatry Southern Illinois University School of Medicine Springfield, Illinois The inspiration for this basic science series occurred at an educational retreat led by Dr. L. Maximilian Buja, who at the time was the dean of the medical school. It has been such a joy to work together with Dr. David Loose, who is an accomplished scientist and teacher. It has been rewarding to collaborate with Dr. Anush Pillai, a scholar and an excellent teacher. It has been a pleasure to work with our new author Dr. Shelley Tischkau, who is both a content expert and an excellent educator. I would like to thank McGraw-Hill for believing in the concept of teaching by clinical cases. I owe a great debt to Catherine Johnson, who has been a fantastically encouraging and enthusiastic editor.

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Often, the medical student will cringe at the "drudgery" of the basic science courses and see little connection between a field such as pharmacology and clinical problems. Clinicians, however, often wish they knew more about the basic sciences, because it is through the science that we can begin to understand the complexities of the human body and thus have rational methods of diagnosis and treatment.

Mastering the knowledge in a discipline such as pharmacology is a formidable task. It is even more difficult to retain this information and to recall it when the clinical setting is encountered. To accomplish this synthesis, pharmacology is optimally taught in the context of medical situations, and this is reinforced later during the clinical rotations. The gulf between the basic sciences and the patient arena is wide. Perhaps one way to bridge this gulf is with carefully constructed clinical cases that ask basic science-oriented questions. In an attempt to achieve this goal, we have designed a collection of patient cases to teach pharmacology-related points. More importantly, the explanations for these cases emphasize the underlying mechanisms and relate the clinical setting to the basic science data. The principles are explored rather than overemphasizing rote memorization.

This book is organized for versatility: to allow the student "in a rush" to go quickly through the scenarios and check the corresponding answers and to provide more detailed information for the student who wants thought-provoking explanations. The answers are arranged from simple to complex: a summary of the pertinent points, the bare answers, a clinical correlation, an approach to the pharmacology topic, a comprehension test at the end for reinforcement or emphasis, and a list of references for further reading. The clinical cases are arranged by system to better reflect the organization within the basic science. Finally, to encourage thinking about mechanisms and relationships, we used open-ended questions in the clinical cases. Nevertheless, several multiple-choice questions are included at the end of each scenario to reinforce concepts or introduce related topics.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS BOOK

Each case is designed to introduce a clinically related issue and includes open-ended questions usually asking a basic science question, but at times, to break up the monotony, there will be a clinical question. The answers are organized into four different parts:

Part I

- 1. Summary
- 2. A straightforward answer is given for each open-ended question.
- 3. Clinical Correlation—A discussion of the relevant points relating the basic science to the clinical manifestations, and perhaps introducing the student to issues such as diagnosis and treatment.

x INTRODUCTION

Part II

An approach to the basic science concept consisting of three parts:

- 1. **Objectives**—A listing of the two to four main knowledge objectives that are critical for understanding the underlying pharmacology to answer the question and relate to the clinical situation.
- 2. Definitions of basic terminology.
- 3. Discussion of the specific class of agents.

Part III

Comprehension Questions—Each case includes several multiple-choice questions that reinforce the material or introduces new and related concepts. Questions about the material not found in the text are explained in the answers.

Part IV

Pharmacology Pearls—A listing of several important points, many clinically relevant, reiterated as a summation of the text and to allow for easy review, such as before an examination.