

BOOK REVIEW

LABORATORY MANUAL for Nuclear Medicine Technology

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New York, 1984, 157 pages

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In general I regard this as a useful addition to the Technologists section of the nuclear medicine laboratories library. It provides a practical introduction to the subject by a series of well constructed experiments.

While "Mosby's Manual of Nuclear Medicine Procedures" features heavily among the references, its general applicability cannot be disputed, particularly as is the case, it is augmented by a large number of other references and suggestions for further study.

The text is divided into six parts. Part I concerns Radiation Safety and deals with shielding, contamination surveys, wipe tests, decontamination procedures and the shipping, receiving and accountability aspects of radiopharmaceuticals. The structured approach to each experiment - rationale, objectives, materials, procedure, questions, references - is a pleasing feature of the book but perhaps an opportunity might have been seized to develop the role which environmental air sampling, film badges, thermoluminescent dosimeters (TLDs) etc can play in radiation safety.

Part II on Instrumentation occupies approximately one third of the book. Together with Part III on Physics these sections go furthest in instructing new technologists in the basic skills of their trade.

Part IV is the Radiopharmacy section and again is strongest in its description of the use of equipment. In Exercise 3 on chromatographic determination of radiochemical purity, however, while guidance on the use of commercial type analytical kits is given, no discussion of the nature of chromatography appears. Similarly some consideration of possible chromatographic artefacts and the value of strip scanning in the provision of activity profiles might have been included. Other exercises on particle counting and capsule control are adequately presented.

Part V on radiochemistry is extremely basic but correct in its treatment of elementary chemical techniques - weighing, pH measurement, solution preparation.

Par VI, the final section on Patient Care begins with a useful exercise on sterile procedures which are called upon elsewhere in the text.

Overall, a text which is of most value in its teaching of the basic operation of laboratory equipment used in nuclear medicine.

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