

BOOK REVIEW

Radiopharmacy and Radiopharmaceuticals
Edited by A E Theobald
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Based on a course held at Chelsea College, London, in 1983, this book brings together contributions from several highly respected members of the United Kingdom (UK) nuclear medicine community. These papers are divided into two sections, the first dealing with radiopharmaceuticals, and the second with contemporary radiopharmacy practice.

Part one provides papers in six areas; new radionuclides and generators (specifically positron emitting isotopes), radiopharmaceuticals for lung and gastric studies, immunoscintigraphy, cell labelling with In-111 complexes, and I-123 radiopharmaceuticals. These papers represent the specialist interests of the authors, and provide an interesting and comprehensive introduction to these subjects for those unfamiliar or new to these topics. The authors concentrate on basic principles of modes of action and selection of suitable radiopharmaceuticals, and, in several chapters, on the preparation of these radiopharmaceuticals. There are many important areas of nuclear medicine which are not covered, notably Tc-99m radiopharmaceuticals, which unfortunately limits the book as an introductory text.

Safe and efficient operation of radiopharmacies is the theme of the second part of this book. Included are chapters on the design of both local and central radiopharmacies, and safety aspects of radiation protection and environmental control. Also added to this section are chapters describing radiopharmaceuticals for therapy, and factors which might alter radiopharmaceutical biodistribution. Again, aimed primarily at those with little previous experience of these fields, these chapters offer sound advice and information. The practices described relate to regulations within the UK, requiring non-UK radiopharmacists to check for themselves on local requirements.

Some of the early chapters were prepared in 1983, so naturally fail to provide details of the most recent developments. Overall, however, this volume provides a useful introduction to those requiring some background information into the theory and practice of radiopharmacy.

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