

Book Reviews

Textbook of Biochemistry with Clinical Correlations. 5th Edition. Edited by Thomas M. Devlin. Wiley-Liss, New York. 2002. xxiv + 1216 pp. 22 × 29 cm. ISBN 0-471-41136-1. \$99.94.

There are numerous good textbooks available for general biochemistry, but medical, pharmacy, and other health professional students often question the relevance of the extensive coverage given to *E. coli*, bacteriophage, yeast, and other simpler organisms by general biochemistry texts. Devlin's textbook fills the needs of these students, with its strong emphasis on human biochemistry. The coverage differs somewhat from many general texts; for example, most biochemistry texts cover blood coagulation in about two pages, with a couple of figures showing cascades. Devlin devotes 19 pages to this topic, which is critical to understanding treatment of cardiovascular disease and stroke. Throughout the book there are "clinical correlation" sidebars (over 200 in this edition) that relate biochemical pathways to human health and disease.

These are written at a level appropriate to pharmacy or first-year graduate or medical students, and they demonstrate how the material covered relates to human disease, pharmacology, and drug interactions.

The book has excellent color illustrations throughout, as is to be expected of a modern biochemistry text. Each chapter includes a number of multiple-choice questions and descriptive answers. There is a 10-page appendix that reviews relevant organic chemistry (functional groups, nomenclature, stereochemistry). This text would be an excellent choice for a pharmaceutical or medical biochemistry course.

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JM020135A