

# Pharmacology and Therapeutics Principles to Practice

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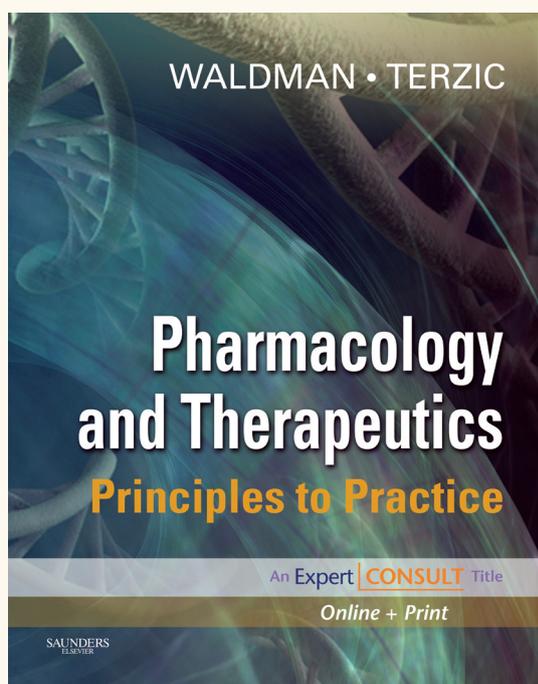
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## علم الأدوية والمداواة من المبادئ إلى الممارسة

المؤلف: سكوت والدمان، أندريه تيرزيك



**P**HARMACOLOGY TEXTBOOKS ARE OFTEN dull because of detailed presentation of volumes of information in a drab manner, making the subject even more volatile and distant for a neophyte! This textbook, however, deviates from the routine old-fashioned textbook of pharmacology, moving into the new spectrum of more 'sellable pharmacology' and is presented in a palatable style. The book describes recent advances in basic pharmacology and relates them to their application in practical therapeutics. It

emphasises drug discovery, translational research, and evidence-based medicine. The style of narration and the format of the book are user friendly. The complete contents of the book are available online allowing free access to diagrams and other resource material.

The book is presented in an integrated, disease-oriented manner which makes it an attractive and innovative book to enhance learning about diseases and therapeutics, rather than stand alone drugs. This approach is in line with the learning needs of today's medical students, clinical pharmacists and other medical and nursing professionals.

The book is divided into two parts: Principles and Practice. The first part has four sections comprising of twenty-one chapters dealing with the Pharmacotherapeutic Continuum, Molecular Pharmacology, Systems Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology. The second part is divided into sixteen main sections on therapeutics, and these sections are further subdivided into seventy-three chapters dealing with different diseases. Chapters in this section include pathophysiology, epidemiology, therapeutics, clinical pharmacology and therapeutics, and emerging drug targets. The book also includes an interesting, though brief chapter on Sex Differences in Pharmacology.

The main strength of the book lies in the chapters dealing with the continuum of knowledge including basic concepts of drugs gradually presented with an increasing layer of complexity and integration

with therapy. The pathophysiology and rationale of drug use are clearly explained so that the reader is prepared for a lifetime of prescribing and practice. Another striking feature of the book is the strategy of bulky text broken down by use of detailed diagrams. Hence, each chapter in the book is well illustrated with high quality coloured diagrams, comprehensive flowcharts, extensive summary tables and treatment algorithms. These make the book more attractive to the reader.

Although most chapters are exhaustively referenced, one of the limitations of the book lies in the use of older references. This is particularly evident in areas of therapeutics that are rapidly changing. An example is the section on Therapy of Infectious Diseases wherein the chapters on treatment of community acquired pneumonia and tuberculosis refer to American Thoracic Society guidelines from 2003, and the chapter on bacterial meningitis refers to Infectious Diseases Society of

America guidelines from 2004. In addition, Chapter 12 on the Pharmacobiology of Infection gives more weight to antiviral and antifungal drugs compared to antibacterial agents. This could give a novice reader of pharmacology the impression that the former are more commonly used drugs.

Overall this book is a useful addition to the rapidly emerging armamentarium of 'new look' pharmacology and therapeutics textbooks. I would definitely use both the text and the online versions and recommend them to others.

#### REVIEWER

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