

Preface to the *Oklahoma Notes*

In 1973, the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine instituted a requirement for passage of the Part I National Boards for promotion to the third year. To assist students in preparation for this examination, a two-week review of the basic sciences was added to the curriculum in 1975. Ten review texts were written by the faculty: four in anatomical sciences and one each in the other six basic sciences. Self-instructional quizzes were also developed by each discipline and administered during the review period.

The first year the course was instituted the Total Score performance on National Boards Part I increased 60 points, with the relative standing of the school changing from 56th to 9th in the nation. The performance of the class since then has remained near the national candidate mean. This improvement in our own students' performance has been documented (Hyde et al: Performance on NBME Part I examination in relation to policies regarding use of test. J. Med. Educ. 60: 439-443, 1985).

A questionnaire was administered to one of the classes after they had completed the Boards; 82% rated the review books as the most beneficial part of the course. These texts were subsequently rewritten and made available for use by all students of medicine who were preparing for comprehensive examinations in the Basic Medical Sciences. Since their introduction in 1987, over 300,000 copies have been sold. Obviously these texts have proven to be of value. The main reason is that they present a *concise overview* of each discipline, emphasizing the content and concepts most appropriate to the task at hand, i.e., passage of a comprehensive examination covering the Basic Medical Sciences.

The recent changes in the licensure examination that have been made to create a Step 1/Step 2/Step 3 process have necessitated a complete revision of the *Oklahoma Notes*. This task was begun in the summer of 1991 and has been ongoing over the past three years. The book you are now holding is a product of that revision. Besides bringing each book up to date, the authors have made every effort to make the tests and review questions conform to the new format of the National Board of Medical Examiners. Thus we have added numerous clinical vignettes and extended match questions. A major revision in the review of the Anatomical Sciences has also been introduced. We have distilled the previous editions' content to the details the authors believe to be of greatest importance and have combined the four texts into a single volume. In addition a book about neurosciences has been added to reflect the emphasis this interdisciplinary field is now receiving.

I hope you will find these review books valuable in your preparation for the licensure exams. Good luck!

Richard M. Hyde, Ph.D.
Executive Editor

Preface to the Third Edition

This book is intended to be a *quick* review for those who are studying for their licensure examination in Biochemistry (USMLE, Step 1). As in the first two editions, we have left out a great deal of detail in the interest of making the book digestible in a reasonable time and to keep the price affordable. Those who need a more thorough reference should consult any of several excellent and up-to-date texts that are now available.

Significant improvements in this edition, besides a general updating and correction of the text, are as follows:

- **Test Questions.** In addition to many new sample questions, we have supplied an annotation for each, to explain briefly why the selected answer is correct. Although this took up extra space in the book, we felt the teaching value was worth it.
- **Medical Genetics.** We have added a new broadly based chapter, professionally illustrated, on this rapidly developing field, describing recombinant DNA techniques and their applications in diagnosis of genetic disease and in gene therapy. The chapter also includes a review of basic genetics and the chemistry of mutations.

As before, each part is written by a colleague who is either an expert in the field or an experienced teacher of the topic. The words are the authors' own, but as editors we accept responsibility for what to include or omit. We welcome comments and suggestions for future editions.

Thomas Briggs
Albert M. Chandler