

Preface to the Sixth Edition

The first edition of this book was written 20 years ago. This is a long enough time for the evolution of a book and for assessing its usefulness to the students. During this period, new technologies and concepts have brought about a revolutionary change in our understanding of human physiology.

The evolution of this book has been a continuing process, depending largely as it does on the feedback received from its readers. Both the students as well as junior teachers have been generous in their appreciation and in constructive criticism and suggestions for the further improvement of the book. I am sure that I will continue to receive such help in the future as well.

The general organisational framework and format of the book, that had been introduced in the last edition, has been retained. The book is divided into six sections, and while the section on 'Hematology' and some 'Human Experiments' have been completely re-written and most of the figures replaced, the rest of the book has also been suitably revised. As in previous editions, figures and diagrams occupy the centre stage and every effort has been made to make them easily-understandable.

Most experiments begin with their clinical relevance. Then come the **principle** on which the experiment is based, the **apparatus** required, the step by step **procedures**, followed by **observations and results** and **precautions**. The introduction of **questions/answers** at the end of each experiment in the last edition, has been particularly liked and appreciated by the readers. The purpose of the material, which has been extensively revised and expanded, is not to replace the standard textbooks on physiology but only to act as a bridge between theory and the practical work.

During the course of 20 years of the development of this book, I have received many suggestions and help from diverse sources. Though it is not possible to thank everyone. I would like to extend my gratitude to Dr. (Mrs.) B.K. Maini, Dr. S.K. Manchanda, Dr. O.P. Tandon, Dr. N.K. Mishra, Dr. (Mrs.) Usha Nagpal, Dr. R.S. Sidhu, and Dr. Ashok Kumar.

I particularly wish to express my sincere appreciation for the help and cooperation extended to me by my colleagues, Dr. D.K. Soni and Dr. A.K. Garg. They have been kind enough to offer suggestions ever since the time of last edition.

I would like to convey my thanks to my publishers Mr. Jitendar P. Vij, and his team for a job well done.

I would be remiss if I do not express my gratitude to my students who have over a period of 40 years inspired me towards greater efforts to achieve excellence in this work.

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