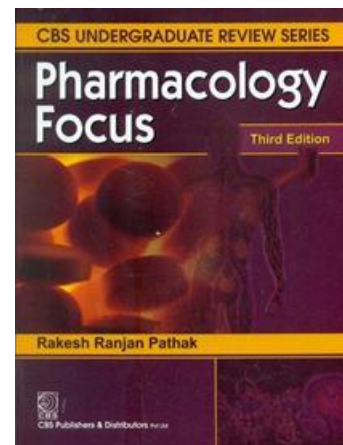


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**Book Review****Pharmacology Focus****Rakesh Ranjan Pathak**Publishers: CBS Publisher & Distributor Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi  
3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2012, ISBN: 9788123922058 (Paperback)

The book *Pharmacology Focus* has two good opening quotes from holy Quran and the Rig-Veda praying for the guidance for a proper path (to march ahead). Humbleness of the author and versatility of interest is apparent at the very onset; may the spirit of author be shared by the readers – the students.

The quotes are followed by a page-full of instructions for the students while using the book. In the preface the author clearly defines the aims of the book. The book is meant to prepare the medical students for better outcome in the university examination in the subject of pharmacology.

The book is organized in 10 sections. In each section the discussion goes under ‘topic-headings’, short-answer questions and long-answer questions. One will get idea of the volume of the book by looking the following statistics. The discussion includes about 173 topic-heads, 332 short answer questions and 43 long answer-questions.

The language of the book is ‘student-friendly’ and students from different regions should find no difficult to follow the material. The book is a nice compilation of useful and interesting information for undergraduate students. Many aspects presented here will also be useful to the post- graduates in pharmacology.

What is to be appreciated is the commitment of the author towards the students. He has kept in mind the problems of low performer (and achiever) as well as the high performer (and achiever) and developed this book to help them to maximize their outcome.

There is uniqueness in the presentation of the discussion. The information is divided into strata from point of view

of usefulness to students to aim for higher performance and achievement. This kind of categorization, would aspire the students for securing from minimum marks to university position.

Use of ‘simple’ fonts, only bold fonts, in italics, bold underlined fonts or brackets is a good idea to demarcate the material in different strata. Material presented in the bracket is meant to help the students to have better recall. Definitely there is originality in the presentation of this book and intentions of the author are excellent.

I am afraid of the ‘feel’ of complexity that arises while going through the presentation with varieties of ‘font-formats’. Can I dare to suggest for the modification of presentation in the future editions? It is my personal feeling that if the flow of discussion in each subtopic goes from essential features towards more advanced information, the grasp will be better; of course some unique information and aids to recall the salient features should follow at the end of every sub-section. Such a nice compilation would be made more handy to the students. I am sure the author understands my anxiety and will find out the ways ‘to smoothen’ the ‘bumpy tract’ of reading. I am certain of his creativity in this direction too.

At places author has raised lots of finer points. Uncertainties of some issues are posed as per the present day knowledge. This kind of approach shows the complexity of the subject matter; this would be good for developing wider view for the post graduates in pharmacology.

I am afraid that for the undergraduate students, the considerations of the finer issues may develop phobia for the subject. In these kinds of situations there is a need for a suggestion as ‘a way out’; that may be a workable,

temporary 'solution' to the issue (one may wait for further advancement in the knowledge in future to get the 'true' solution). The undergraduate students will go with the applicability of the present day knowledge rather than confusion associated with the 'search' for the 'finer truth'. Of course, author has adopted this policy at many places; bravo!

No doubt the discussions are organized in 10 sections but in each section the scheme of sequence of topics is not very clear. The author may have something in his mind to follow the sequence adopted presently but that is not apparent while going through the book.

Such a nice compilation will be more beneficial if there is some modification of organizing the sequence; a more meaningful sequence is expected. Even the proximity in the presentations on the 'Topic-heads' and the 'questions' based there upon would be beneficial to the students.

Hope the future editions my take care of these aspects, which would help the students for 'smooth sailing'.

The book is worth recommending to the undergraduate students, post graduate students and the teachers of pharmacology. The book is of a good shape and size (having 410 pages); however the price of the book is not printed.

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