

Gibaldi M & Perrier D. *Pharmacokinetics*. New York: Dekker, (1975) 1982. 494 p.
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The textbook *Pharmacokinetics* is an attempt to bring together, in as comprehensive a fashion as possible, the fundamental principles, mathematical methods, and applications of pharmacokinetics. Every effort was made to present in an explicit and detailed manner the mathematical bases and the assumptions that are the underpinnings of the various pharmacokinetic equations, parameters, and approaches in wide use. [The *SCJ*® indicates that the two editions of this book have been cited more than 3,050 times.]

Unraveling the Mysteries of Pharmacokinetics

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Initial discussion regarding the need for a textbook in pharmacokinetics began in early 1973 when we were in the Department of Pharmaceutics at the State University of New York at Buffalo. At that time Don Perrier was completing his PhD with me. In 1973 the discipline of pharmacokinetics was about 35 years old. The preceding 15 years had witnessed a most rapid rate of development of pharmacokinetic concepts, methods, and applications. It was in this light that we perceived a need for a new textbook that would bring these principles together. As we were to experience, the writing of such a textbook is a significant undertaking, which, when completed, is very gratifying. In 1975 the first edition was published.

Our goals in preparing the second edition were similar to those that prompted us to undertake the initial effort. The need for revision was amply clear to us each time we looked at our files, bulging with research papers and commentaries on pharmacokinetic methods and applications published since the completion of the first edition. The buzzwords of the late 1970s were "clearance concepts," "noncompartmental models," and "physiologic pharmacokinetics." After much debate, questioning our sanity for even considering the task of rewriting the textbook, we succumbed. At this time Perrier and I had left the State University of New York and were in Schools of Pharmacy at the University of Arizona and University of Washington, respectively. A major revision of existing chapters in the first edition was undertaken, and chapters were added to address new developments in the discipline. This resulted in a second edition, published in 1982, that was 50 percent longer than the first. Again, we strove in this edition to present the material in an explicit and detailed manner.

We perceive that the textbook is highly cited because it brings together in a reasonably comprehensive fashion fundamental principles, mathematical methods, and applications of pharmacokinetics. Considerable effort was made to present the material with mathematic bases and assumptions in a manner that was sufficiently explicit and detailed to enable its use as a textbook in formal courses, as a reference text, or as a textbook for self-directed study.

Since the last revision of our book, several important textbooks addressing the role of pharmacokinetics in the clinical setting have become available.^{1,2}

1. Evans W E, Schentag J J & Jusko W J, eds. *Applied pharmacokinetics: principles of therapeutic drug monitoring*. Spokane, WA: Applied Therapeutics, 1986. 1,272 p.
2. Rowland M & Tozer T N. *Clinical pharmacokinetics: concepts and applications*. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1988. 475 p.