

ASCP QUICK COMPENDIUM
OF
CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

Dedication

*I dedicate this book to our four children:
Sarah, Diana, and the Davids.*

ASCP

QUICK
COMPENDIUM
OF CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

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My mentor, Dr James L Kelley, taught me to be diagnostician and a doctor. Through his example I saw the way to gain the esteem of clinical colleagues: be prepared, be honest, and, above all, be available. I am grateful to my publisher, Joshua Weikersheimer, who saw the value in this idea and assisted me through to its completion. I am indebted to Dr David F Keren for his teaching and encouragement. I thank Emily for her assistance, friendship, and love.

Preface

This book was written to serve as a concise yet comprehensive source for the review of clinical pathology. It is best suited for those who are familiar with the basics and desire either a guidebook to board preparation. The topics are organized according to the traditional clinical pathology sections. Within each topic I have included, as best I could judge, what it is essential to know for both practical and test preparation purposes.

The typical experience in laboratory medicine training is long, fractured, and uneven, such that much is forgotten and much more is never actually learned. As long as there have been pathology boards, senior residents have sequestered themselves with collections of papers, books, and notes that they hoped to memorize. While I believe that there is merit in this once-over review of everything, there can be much wasted effort without guidance and focus. I wrote this guidebook hoping improve this process, such that it retains its merit and perhaps loses some of its burden.

Thus, shortly after taking the boards in 1998, I organized my papers, books, and notes into a manuscript that became the first edition, published finally in 2005. This was well received, especially by appreciative pathology residents. In addition to gratitude, I was the beneficiary of much constructive criticism, on the basis of which I have made many improvements. All sections have been updated according to the literature published since the first edition. Furthermore, what wisdom I have gained from ten years of taking questions from clinical colleagues, dealing with problems, and committing mistakes has been integrated where applicable. This edition also incorporates the now significantly matured field of diagnostic molecular pathology. The focus has remained on providing a distilled review of clinical pathology, but a greater emphasis has been placed upon practical points when appropriate. Thus, I hope this book will carry the reader beyond the boards and ultimately serve as a useful desktop reference.

— D Mais, MD

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