BOOK REVIEWS


Reviewed By: Brandon Sucher, PharmD
Regis University School of Pharmacy

Graduating pharmacists often find themselves in leadership positions early in their careers. In response to stakeholder feedback, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) updated guidelines for Standard 9: The Goal of the Curriculum, with the addition of Guideline 9.3. Guideline 9.3 states, “The college or school curriculum should foster the development of students as leaders and agents of change. The curriculum should help students embrace the moral purpose that underpins the profession and develop the ability to use tools and strategies needed to affect positive change in pharmacy practice and health care delivery.” The Pharmacy Leadership Field Guide: Cases and Advice for Everyday Situations is a casebook designed to equip students, residents, and new practitioners with an “in-print mentor” as they face leadership challenges.

This book consists of 9 chapters from various authors, with the following titles: “Professional Leadership,” “Becoming a Leader,” “People, People, People!” “Motivating the Eeyores,” “Communication,” “Embracing Change,” “Working Efficiently,” “Leading Yourself,” and “Marketing Yourself in Pharmacy.” Each chapter is co-authored by a veteran mentor and a new practitioner leader and starts off with a 3 to 7 page brief introduction that lays the foundation for the cases and advice for the respective leadership topic covered within each chapter. Five to 9 real-life cases are included in each chapter, and cases begin by identifying the leadership principles addressed within the case. Each case is relevant to pharmacy and includes a section on what may be going on in the mind of the person of interest described in the case. Following the case, the veteran mentor and new practitioner leader co-authors each provide advice including what they have found to work well in similar situations.

At the end of each chapter is a 1 to 3 paragraph summary; a bullet list of leadership pearls; a bullet list of leadership exercises; references and/or suggested additional readings; and referral to “Success Skills” articles from the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy. The “Success Skills” bonus content may be accessed via the book’s Web page or by using a Smartphone to read the QR Code (ie, 2-dimensional bar code) in each chapter. Chapters also include a potpourri of additional materials including self-assessment tools, checklists, leader-development activities, tips relevant to the leadership topic, or games (eg, crossword puzzles, word finds). Every chapter includes profiles of the veteran mentor and new practitioner leader co-authors that engages readers with their responses to interesting questions such as “What is your favorite leadership book?” “Where do you turn for advice when you are stressed?” “Why leadership?” “What are some tips for work-life balance?”

This book may be studied chapter-by-chapter as part of a required or elective course within a pharmacy curriculum, or used as a reference when readers find themselves in a situation that stretches their leadership skills. Reviewing the table of contents or index can help readers identify the most appropriate chapter that suits their situation, ultimately providing guidance on how to make better choices and respond appropriately to challenging situations.

As a whole, this book is an easy-to-read casebook that can help individuals who need a brief overview of leadership concepts with cases applying leadership principles in a variety of pharmacy practice settings. I recommend this book to pharmacy faculty members, pharmacy residency directors, and pharmacy preceptors. Pharmacy faculty members may also consider adopting this book as a required or suggested text for courses designed to meet ACPE curricular goal guidelines for leader-development.

It is a terrific book for pharmacy residency directors and preceptors desiring to facilitate discussions on how to apply leadership principles to everyday pharmacy practice situations. This book also fulfills a need in the pharmacy leadership literature for new practitioners by providing a practical resource (ie, “in-print mentor”) for new practitioners needing advice that complements existing mentor relationships. With the significant number of leadership positions available to new practitioners, it is essential for graduating pharmacists to be equipped with the tools and skills needed to succeed in these leadership positions. Therefore, a resource like this book could be of great use not only to students but to new practitioners as well.

Corresponding Author: Brandon Sucher, PharmD, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Regis University School of Pharmacy, Trustee, Pharmacy Leadership and Education Institute, 3333 Regis Boulevard, H-28, Denver CO, 80221. Tel: 303-625-1282. Fax: 303-625-1305. E-mail: bsucher@regis.edu
The fourth edition of *Sampson’s Textbook of Radiopharmacy* is the first revision in the past 11 years of this well-established textbook on radiopharmacy. The vast majority of the 40 contributing authors are based in the United Kingdom, with a handful of additional contributors from other parts of Europe or the Americas. The textbook contains 37 chapters arranged into 6 topic sections.

Following an introductory chapter discussing what is radiopharmacy, subsequent chapters are arranged into sections discussing the physics applied to radiopharmacy, radiopharmaceutical chemistry, radiopharmacokinetics, radiopharmaceutics, radiopharmacy practice, and techniques in research and development. Additional material is included in an extensive list of abbreviations, a brief appendix on radioactive decay laws and practical applications, an extensive glossary of radiopharmacy terms, and a well-detailed index.

The first section discussing the physics applied to radiopharmacy contains chapters on nuclear structure, radiation protection, detection of radiation, imaging instruments, and production of radionuclides. The chapters are concise, and many of the figures and tables are simple, clear, and effective for demonstrating important concepts. Sections within the chapter on radiation protection focus on UK legislation. Chapters on detection and imaging provide an excellent overview of the typical equipment found in a radiopharmacy or nuclear medicine imaging facility. The production of nuclides chapter describes basic concepts associated with cyclotron and nuclear reactor production of medical isotopes.

The section on radiopharmaceutical chemistry consists of 8 chapters, some of which are dedicated to single isotopes while others discuss groups of related isotopes. These chapters are detailed and would be of interest to those pursuing advanced studies or research. Unfortunately, the content of these chapters are well above the knowledge base for many involved in clinical practice or those exploring independent learning about the niche practice of radiopharmacy.

There are 3 chapters included in the section discussing pharmacokinetics and 8 chapters in the section for radiopharmaceutics. Many chapters include numerous figures and tables. Selected chapters focus on current diagnostic and therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals. The chapter associated with principles of radionuclide generators is very informative. Appendices providing recommended standard operating procedures are helpful inclusions in the chapters discussing quality control methods and radiolabeling of blood cells.

The radiopharmacy practice section consists of 8 chapters providing information on the design and operation of radiopharmacy facilities, regulation of radiopharmacy practice in Europe, the United Kingdom, and the United States, packaging and transport of radiopharmaceuticals, patient safety when dispensing radiopharmaceuticals, and interactions between patient medications and radiopharmaceuticals, as well as concurrent drug administration for the enhancement of nuclear medicine studies. Many of these chapters deal primarily with the site-specific management of radiopharmaceuticals as hazardous materials while the latter chapters in this section deal with clinical patient care issues. One glaring omission of pharmacological agents for the enhancement of nuclear medicine studies is the absence of regadenoson (Lexiscan) as an alternative to exercise, adenosine, or dipyridamole for myocardial perfusion imaging.

The final section consists of 4 chapters on techniques in research and development methods including molecular biology techniques, chemical characterization methods, and cell culture models, as well as the use of animal models in preclinical molecular imaging studies. These topics will be of interest for the advanced practitioner to explore preclinical aspects associated with future radiopharmaceutical development.

*Sampson’s Textbook of Radiopharmacy* is a welcome addition to reference libraries for clinical practice sites, academic institutions, research centers, and advanced practitioner personal libraries. Much of the content is beyond the introductory level and would likely be overwhelming to novices and students wishing to learn more about radiopharmacy. Other recently revised or newly released competing textbooks are tailored to introductory level elective coursework offered during undergraduate programs or postgraduate authorized user certifications.