BOOK REVIEWS

Reviewed By: Renae Chesnut, RPh, MBA, EdD, and Steven Dunn, PharmD
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Heroes of Pharmacy: Professional Leadership in Times of Change profiles individuals whose efforts and accomplishments have led to the pharmacy profession as we know it today.

The book is comprised of a series of 28 articles previously published in the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association (JAPhA), along with an introduction and commentary on the founders of APhA. Worthen makes a specific case for each of the chosen heroes, and he clearly notes that a true hero’s magnitude of greatness most likely is revealed only after an individual has died.

Each of the chapters highlights an individual who has been deemed to have had a significant impact on practice, education, industry, or association management. The heroes are listed in alphabetical order rather than chronologically. The chapters read like a text, separating each character’s multi-faceted life into sections such as editor or author, government service, association executive, legacy, and more. The author leaves out most of the individual’s personal life in an effort to focus on each hero’s career and, more importantly, the individual’s impact on the pharmacy profession.

Worthen ties in some history, which brings an element of storytelling to the book. He conveys how brilliant and ahead of their time these individuals were. That is not to say that everything is given a thorough explanation (ie, many heroes won the Whitney Award but its full prestige would not necessarily be understood by everyone). Nonetheless, Worthen is effective at convincing the reader of the importance of each hero’s individual achievement as a chapter in the history of pharmacy.

Many pharmacists and students have a limited understanding of the pharmacy profession’s history. One might understand the profession has changed dramatically during the past 200 years, but how much of that change is really known and who was responsible for the change? Heroes of Pharmacy provides several answers to those questions, and could also potentially serve as a resource for a variety of classroom settings. For a novice to pharmacy, this book could encourage a more thorough understanding of the history of pharmacy. The book could also appeal to more experienced pharmacy professionals who could more fully appreciate Worthen’s point that the history of pharmacy has laid foundations for modern day practices. By telling the stories of some of the profession’s most innovative and creative thinkers, readers gain a better understanding of the individuals behind a number of the awards (Rufus A. Lyman Award, Harvey A.K. Whitney Award, etc) that are part of our profession today, and will be inspired by seeing that individual efforts can make a difference.

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Reviewed By: Kimi S. Vesta, PharmD
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Pharmacy Practice Experiences: A Student’s Handbook is a pocket-size book written to be pharmacy students’ guide through their pharmacy practice experiences (PPE) and into their careers. This first edition book is written by Paul J. Stelak, who states in the introduction that the book covers topics not covered in depth in pharmacy school. The book contains 17 short chapters and 7 varied appendices.

The first 10 chapters introduce 10 topics, varying from history of pharmacy to therapeutic monitoring and modification, and the last 7 chapters describe 7 PPE settings. The appendices provide more depth about a few specific topics, from units of measure and conversions to anemia. While the introductory nature of the book makes this an appropriate assignment for students beginning their Introductory PPEs (IPPE), the content probably would not be necessary to keep for daily reference or for Advanced PPEs (APPE). For example, the first 2 chapters, “History of the Pharmacy Profession” and “Ethics and Practice Standards,” are quick and easy-to-read background material but are not likely necessary for daily reference. The next 2 chapters, “Time Management” and “Communication Skills,” also provide an encouraging overview for PPEs. The content, however, is again not presented as material for daily reference and is limited to the author’s opinion. Specifically, the hierarchy system section outlined common titles and roles, which are much
The concise design is appealing for an early IPPE reading assignment.

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Reviewed By: Spencer E. Harpe, PharmD, PhD, MPH VCU School of Pharmacy

Despite increasing involvement of pharmacists in informatics, there are relatively few formal sources for information about pharmacy informatics. The Pharmacy Informatics Primer seeks to fill this gap. Drawing on their collective informatics experience, the authors have taken the approach of discussing important considerations for implementing informatics in practice. This makes the book particularly useful for those pharmacists involved with implementation of new informatics initiatives at their institution. Given its practical orientation, The Pharmacy Informatics Primer would also be appropriate for pharmacy students. Supplemental readings could easily be provided if basic information technology (IT) or informatics principles needed to be introduced.

The 13 chapters present a range of topics from “Computerized Provider Order Entry” and “Clinical Decision Support to Reporting and Data Mining and Management Issues. The chapters on System Maintenance” and “Planning for Downtime” are particularly useful for pharmacists who may become involved with these potentially frustrating, but extremely important, activities. Chapters begin with an outline followed by a list of key definitions. This is beneficial for readers who may have heard a term before but not know its actual definition. One of the most useful features of the text is the Pharmacy Informatics Pearls section in each chapter. These highlight information from the chapter providing important considerations for approaching various informatics-related challenges in practice.

Separate detailed explanations are not provided for basic IT issues, such as hardware and networking, or theoretical foundations of informatics. Sufficient overviews of important concepts are provided when necessary for a particular topic (for example, communication standards for e-prescribing). As is the case with other informatics
texts, the potential for the information becoming quickly outdated is an important consideration. The text’s approach to the material may allow it to remain appropriate for some time.

I have only a few minor criticisms. There appeared to be a lack of consistency in the use of some terminology across chapters, primarily with respect to electronic medical records and electronic health records. This is likely related to the fact that multiple authors were involved in writing the text. The chapter entitled A New Frontier: Impact of the Electronic Medical Record and Computerized Provider Order Entry on Pharmacy Services seems a bit out of place within the text. In future editions, it may be beneficial to place the New Frontier chapter at the end of the text to tie everything together or at the beginning to set the stage for the rest of the text.

There are other texts on health care informatics, such as those by Felkey, Fox, and Thrower\textsuperscript{1} or Hanson\textsuperscript{2} and the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy has recently introduced the Informatics Interchange column.\textsuperscript{3} To date, however, this is the only text unique to the practice of pharmacy informatics. With its attention to practical application, The Pharmacy Informatics Primer could prove to be a useful resource to practicing pharmacists and students alike.

References

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Walgreen pharmacists are 21,000 strong, meaning one in 10 pharmacists works for “The Pharmacy America Trusts.” A friend in pharmacy school recommended pharmacy so we’d have more time for each other and family, says Tara, pharmacy manager at 3025 Highway 98 in Daphne, Ala. (pictured above, right). She said retail pharmacy was changing. With techs and technology, you’re freer to counsel patients. The couple decided on Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy, graduated in 2005 and immediately went to work for Walgreens. $1.9 trillion 4.3 times the amount of it to control or reduce the impact. spent on national defense. By 2016, of chronic diseases and conditions. U.S. health spending is projected to affecting an aging population. The Pharmacy Times® Pharmacy Focus podcast provides the latest industry news and information, thought-leader insights, clinical updates, patient counseling tools, and innovative solutions for the everyday practice and business of pharmacy. Study: Plant-Based Diets Improve Cardiac Function, Cognitive Health. Radiologists at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) have published an approach in the American Journal of Roentgenology to manage what they expect to be a fairly common occurrence as COVID-19 vaccination programs ramp up. Tip of the Week: Leveraging Social Media in Pharmacy. Social media has developed into a powerful and versatile device that can inform and reach a multitude of persons almost instantaneously. L., 1982; Colman D., Nixson F. Economics of Change in Less Developed Countries. 2 Ed. Oxford. 1986. h.2; Wilber L.D. Conflicting Paradigmes in the Economics of Developing Nations. N.Y., 1986; Rostow W.W. Theories of Economic Growth from David Hume to the Present N.Y. 1992; Todaro M.P. Economic Development. 5th Ed. PP. 583-604; Psacharopoulos G. Returns to Investments in Education: a Global Update /World Development 1994. V. 22 9: PP. 1325-1343. 121 Lucas R. On the Mechanism of Economic Development. A pharmacist promotes the good of every patient in a caring, compassionate, and confidential manner. A pharmacist places concern for the well-being of the patient at the center of professional practice. In doing so, a pharmacist considers needs stated by the patient as well as those defined by health science. A pharmacist serves individual, community, and societal needs. The primary obligation of a pharmacist is to individual patients. However, the obligations of a pharmacist may at times extend beyond the individual to the community and society. In these situations, the pharmacist recognizes the responsibilities that accompany these obligations and acts accordingly. A pharmacist seeks justice in the distribution of health resources.