



FASTtrack

Physical Pharmacy

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Alexander T. Florence

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Introduction to the *FASTtrack* series

FASTtrack is a new series of revision guides created for undergraduate pharmacy students. The books are intended to be used in conjunction with textbooks and reference books as an aid to revision to help guide students through their exams. They provide essential information required in each particular subject area. The books will also be useful for pre-registration trainees preparing for the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain's (RPSGB's) registration examination, and to practising pharmacists as a quick reference text.

The content of each title focuses on what pharmacy students really need to know in order to pass exams. Features include*:

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The titles in the *FASTtrack* series reflect the full spectrum of modules for the undergraduate pharmacy degree.

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There is also an accompanying website which includes extra MCQs, further title information and sample content: www.fasttrackpharmacy.com.

If you have any feedback regarding this series, please contact us at feedback@fasttrackpharmacy.com.

*Note: not all features are in every title in the series.

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Preface

University education is about acquiring knowledge, not just passing examinations. The latter is of course a necessary marker of progress, and as a result many students feel that examinations dominate their academic years. In our experience, as teachers of pharmaceuticals and physical pharmacy over many years, many students do not adopt proper modes of study for any of their subjects, or even devote enough time to revision. No textbook substitutes for students' own notes gathered during lectures, annotated later with more information from textbooks and a timetable of revision leading up to examinations. Reading notes at intervals of days is much more effective than re-reading the notes several times in one day.

The *FASTtrack* series is intended not as an alternative to textbooks but as an aid to revision, providing the key points of each topic and questions with which progress in learning can be gauged. But, like past examination papers, these can only give clues as to what might come in the examination which you are to sit. What you must always ask as a user of this book is: what kind of question might I be asked about topic A and topic B?

This book is derived unashamedly from the fourth edition of our textbook *Physicochemical Principles of Pharmacy*, published by the Pharmaceutical Press in 2006. It is not a substitute for it but should be used alongside it for those revision periods when time is short. In many cases you will need to refer to the full text for more detail. You will find fewer equations here. How can we have a physical pharmacy text without equations? There are few drug structures, yet an understanding of structures is essential for understanding physical pharmacy, formulation and drug behaviour. Hence for a complete understanding of some areas you must refer to drug structures. In examination answers it is important to include appropriate drug structures, equations and diagrams not only but especially in this subject. *Physicochemical Principles of Pharmacy* has structures, diagrams and equations; *Martindale* in its latest edition includes structural formulae.

Pharmaceutics is one of the fundamental bases of pharmacy. Few, if any, other disciplines study the subject. Knowledge of the essentials which we have put down in this *FASTtrack* book are, in our view, very important if pharmacists are to continue to know about drugs and formulations and to contribute something special to health care. We hope that this book will help in preparing not only for examinations but also for the future.

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July 2007

About the author

ALEXANDER FLORENCE recently retired as Dean of The School of Pharmacy at the University of London; he was previously James P. Todd Professor of Pharmaceutics at the University of Strathclyde. His research and teaching interests are drug delivery and targeting, dendrimers, nanoparticles, non-aqueous emulsions, novel solvents for use in pharmaceutics. He co-authored the book *Surfactant Systems: their Chemistry, Pharmacy and Biology* with David Attwood.

DAVID ATTWOOD is Professor of Pharmacy at the University of Manchester; he previously lectured at the University of Strathclyde. His research interests are in the physicochemical properties of drugs and surfactants, and in polymeric drug delivery systems. He has many years' experience in the teaching of physical pharmacy.

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