This jeremiad is intended to call your attention to a valuable tool for learning the craft for yourself (so that you may be an author whose efforts—aside from their scientific merit—will cause editors and readers to bless your name), and to urge you to join the thinning ranks of those who care about clarity, conciseness, precise wording, and scientific literary style.

The tool is the CBE Style Manual, third edition, the final product of more than 15 years of thoughtful preparation by a team of experts from the Council of Biology Editors. It not only tells you how to, but why, and in this enlarged version adeptly manages to cover all facets of manuscript preparation in the biosciences, including our own hybrid one, from title to references. I commend it to you with even more ardor than I would the latest and best in spectrophotometers.

The second book mentioned above is a collection of essays by some highly regarded medical writers, who were given carte blanche as to subject matter. They deal, entertainingly but in no great depth, with matters ranging from the reviewing process to commentary on appalling writing, with classic examples.

The first book is a necessity; the second will repay reading by those who seriously would like to write better, or simply would be interested in seeing their errors as others see them.

References


This monograph contains 23 chapters, reviewing the Proceedings of the Fourth International Symposium on "Drugs Affecting Lipid Metabolism" held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Sept. 8-11, 1971. Included is one of the best available discussions on the chemistry of the apolipoproteins, and synthesis and secretion of plasma lipoproteins. Plasma lipoprotein secretory mechanisms are discussed in detail. This is followed by a concise, detailed, and excellent review on the mechanism of hyperlipoproteinemia in disease. The next two chapters discuss the enzymes in adipose tissue that are involved in lipid metabolism. This lipoprotein lipase is involved in the regulation of triglyceride utilization. The method of purification and properties and the hormonal control of this enzyme is given. A chapter is devoted to the biosynthesis and concentration of cholesterol ester, triglycerides, and phospholipids in the artery wall of pigeons during development of the atheromatous lesion. The clinical application of drugs that affect lipid metabolism is present in 13 chapters. The book contains 101 abstracts of submitted papers involving drugs that affect lipid metabolism in health and disease.

This volume is highly recommended for students and physicians who are interested in lipid metabolism in health and disease.

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While prior literature contributions by the coauthors and the other 24 contributors separately covered numerous aspects of ultrapurity, this text is an attempt to bring together, for what the authors believe to be the first time, the four essential and interrelated parameters of ultrapurity: preparation, handling, containment, and analyses.

Of its 22 chapters, the clinical chemist will be particularly interested in No. 10—"Preparation of Ultrapure Water," No. 11—"Preparation and Characterization of Cholesterol," No. 12—"Contamination Problems in Trace-Element Analysis and Ultrapurification," No. 13—"Airborne Contamination," and No. 14—"Glass Containers for Ultrapure Solutions." Chapters No. 19-22, on analytical techniques that are particularly useful in characterization of trace impurities, also give one greater insight into just how one determines analytically that a material is indeed ultrapure.

For those wishing to become more deeply involved in the study of pure materials in man, this text can indeed

Corrections

Corrections to Volume 7 of the AACC publication Standard Methods of Clinical Chemistry.

The following errata have been brought to our attention:

p 2: A statement is made under "Principle" that is not consistent with the "Procedure:" "At zero time and at 60 min, aliquots are taken, deproteinized with trichloroacetic acid, and inorganic phosphorus determined in aliquots of the filtrate." There is no step in the "Procedure" that indicates removal of aliquots at zero time.

p 5: "Normal Values and Precision." The last sentence indicates a higher value for inorganic phosphate in the tube inhibited with nickel than in the tube without the inhibitor. The reverse is true.

p 179: The sample and diluted sample tubes should have an internal diameter (i.d.) of 0.03" (0.32 ml/ min) instead of 0.015" (0.10 ml/min). The 1:175 sample dilution is close to that recommended for the manual procedure (1:200). However, since the tolerance in the internal diameters is quite high, a smaller sized tube may be required, either for the sample or the diluted sample, in order to obtain a good standard curve. Excessive back pressure can be eliminated by increasing the i.d. of the waste-F/C tube from 0.081" to 0.090".

p 236: The "Protocol for Catecholamine Assay" calls for the prepreparation of an internal standard, which is right and perhaps universally accepted. However, the value (Reading) of this internal standard is not used for the calculation of the catecholamine content (p 238, "Calculations").

Corrections to Clinical Chemistry, Volume 18:

p 454: in abstract, change "324 or 343 nm" to "343 or 324 nm.

p 458 (line 9): change "324 or 343 nm" to "343 or 324 nm."

Programming errors in the Author Index for Volume 18 made it unusable. BIOSIS is preparing a corrected version of this section of the index for distribution. We, and they, apologize for this error.