The concept of a therapeutic dictionary is somewhat novel for a dermatology text. In the past, a limited number of books defined the myriad terms used in dermatology, but they did not provide detail about each entity. Of course, there are many excellent volumes which discuss all aspects of given diseases, but in a format which might be daunting for a hurried practitioner. This book provides a concise view of more than 800 diseases; in just a few moments, one can understand the basics of these conditions and begin therapy.

This text stresses therapeutics when treatments are indicated and helpful. To this end, more than 80 drugs in common use in dermatology are presented in significant detail, in outline form, to provide a quick and handy reference. A table accompanies each of these agents, with detailed information about dosages. Side effects, precautions, contraindications, and drug interactions are also discussed. Many other drugs occasionally used in treating certain dermatologic conditions are noted in the discussion of the specific disease. Numerous therapies described in the literature are included. When there is a clear treatment of choice, it has been denoted by means of a blue asterisk. We have chosen not to list modalities of treatment that remain on lists of therapeutic options in spite of little or no evidence of beneficial effects.

Although thousands of sources were tapped for important data, only one or two references are cited at the end of each entry. These articles are primarily reviews of the diseases for those who wish to read a more detailed discussion. The Internet, an almost unlimited factual source on medical issues, has been utilized to ensure that all of the information given there is current.

No modern dermatologic text is complete without color images. We have chosen approximately 90 photographs that illustrate either dramatic examples of common conditions or diagnostic features of less common skin problems.

Finally, the many generic medication are listed along with common trade names in tabular form for ease of reference at the end of the book.

We are hopeful that the body of material presented here will be a tool that assists practitioners in providing the most complete and up-to-date care for patients with skin disease.

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