



FACULTY OF MEDICINE

SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY

PHPH2211

Pharmacology for Health and Exercise Science

COURSE OUTLINE AND PRACTICAL CLASS MANUAL

SESSION 2, 2009

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Course Information

PHPH2011

[6 UNITS OF CREDIT]

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

To gain:

- an understanding of the principles of pharmacology.
- an appreciation of the mechanisms by which drugs act.
- an understanding of the interaction of drugs and exercise.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR and LECTURERS:

Course Coordinator	Dr Trudie Binder	Room M211B (ph: 9385 8737)
	e-mail:	W.Binder@unsw.edu.au
	Consultation time:	Tuesday 3-4 pm
Co-Coordinator	Dr Angela Finch	Room M207 (ph 93851325)
	e-mail:	Angela.Finch@unsw.edu.au
	Consultation time:	Thursday 3-4 pm

Students wishing to see course coordinators outside consultation times should make an appointment via email.

Lecturers in this course:

Dr. T. Binder	W.Binder@unsw.edu.au
Dr. A. Finch	Angela.Finch@unsw.edu.au
Dr. R. Grant	R.Grant@unsw.edu.au
Dr A. Graudins	Andis.Graudins@unsw.edu.au
Dr. L. Liu	Lu.Liu@unsw.edu.au
Dr. J. Langlands	J.Langlands@unsw.edu.au
Prof. M. Morris	M.Morris@unsw.edu.au

COURSE STRUCTURE and TEACHING STRATEGIES

This is a 6 unit course and consists of:

- 2 lectures per week
- Practical / tutorial sessions of up to 4 hours per week.

Lectures will provide you with the concepts and theory essential for understanding Introductory Pharmacology. To assist in the development of research and analytical skills practical classes and tutorials will be held on alternate weeks. As the classes are relatively small they allow students to engage in a more interactive form of learning than is possible in the larger class lectures. The skills you will learn in practical classes are relevant in your development as professional scientists.

APPROACH TO LEARNING AND TEACHING

Although the primary source of information for this course is the lecture material, effective learning can be enhanced through self directed use of other resources such as textbooks and elearning Vista. Your practical classes will be directly related to the lectures and it is essential to prepare for practical classes before attendance. It is up to you to ensure you perform well in each part of the course; preparing for classes; completing assignments; studying for exams and seeking assistance to clarify your understanding. Past exam questions are provided to assist you in preparing for examinations.

This course will be parallel taught with Introductory Pharmacology and Toxicology PHPH2011.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

A) Discipline specific learning outcomes

On completion of this subject students will be able to:

- Apply pharmacological approaches to problem solving
- Participate effectively in group work
- Apply quantitative analysis to pharmacological data
- Organise information into a clear report
- Have gained a basic knowledge of pharmacology and the impact of drug treatment on acute and chronic responses to exercise.

B) Skills based learning outcomes

Underlying PHPH2011 will be an emphasis on Graduate Attributes which include the skills, qualities, understanding and attitudes that promote lifelong learning that students should acquire during their university experience.

- Research, inquiry and analytical thinking abilities
- The capability and motivation for intellectual development
- Ethical, social and professional understanding
- Effective communication
- Teamwork, collaborative and management skills
- Information Literacy – the skills to locate, evaluate and use relevant information.

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

One test (40 min)	15%
Project (essay on a literature topic)	10%
Practical reports (2)	10%
Theory Exam (2 hours duration) Multiple choice and short answer questions	65%

The test will be held during the session on the 4th of September. Material pertaining to the practical classes will be examined in the theory exams. Written assessment tasks must be accompanied by a signed plagiarism form and submitted to the Student enquires counter, located on the Ground Floor of the Wallace Wurth (MG14). A penalty of 10% per day will apply for late submissions.

The practicals and tutorials are provided to support lecture material and practise analytical skills. The practical classes and tutorials help you to develop graduate attributes. During the practical course you will be required to submit written reports for two of the practical sessions. The reports will be due two weeks after the relevant

practical class and instructions and marking criteria will be distributed during the practical.

Students will research an essay topic. They will submit a written assignment (1000 words) on their findings. This assessment task will allow you to develop your research, information literacy, communication and time management skills. The marking criteria can be found in appendix 1.

The progress examination [mid-session test] will be held during the session on the 4th of September. This exam will give you feedback on how you are succeeding in the course. The test will consist of 20 multiple choice questions and will be based on the material covered in the lectures, practical classes and tutorials. Material covered prior to the progress exam may be again examined in the final exam.

The end of session examination will be held during the official examination period.

TEXTBOOK AND READING LIST

Text

- Rang, Dale, Ritter, Moore. Pharmacology. 6th ed. Churchill Livingstone [recommended primary text].
- Brunton, Lazo and Parker; Goodman and Gilman's The Pharmacological basis of therapeutics. 11th Edition. McGraw Hill. There are several copies of this textbook available through the UNSW library.
- Katzung. Basic and Clinical Pharmacology. 9th ed. McGraw-Hill.

The textbooks are available from the UNSW Bookshop

COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Each year feedback is sought from students about the courses offered in the Department of Pharmacology and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. The Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement [CATEI] Process of the UNSW is the way in which student feedback is evaluated and significant changes to the course will be communicated to subsequent cohorts of students. Also a staff-student liaison group will be set up and students will be invited to become class representatives to seek feedback from their colleagues and meet with academic staff to discuss any issues that arise

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Department of Pharmacology is part of the School of Medical Sciences and is within the Faculty of Medicine. It is located on the lower ground, 2nd and 3rd floors of the Wallace Wurth building. General inquiries can be made at the School of Medical Sciences Student enquires counter, located on the Ground Floor of the Wallace Wurth (MG14). Office hours are 9.00 am - 5:00pm.

Professor Margaret Morris is Head of Department and appointments may be made through her Administrative Assistant Chris Riordan (C.riordan@unsw.edu.au) in Room MG14.

There is an honours program conducted by the School. The Honours program is co-ordinated by Dr Angela Finch Room M207 (ph 93851325)

Any students considering an Honours year should discuss the requirements with the Honours co-ordinator. Outstanding students may be considered for scholarships offered by the University and School and these are offered annually.

Postgraduate research degrees

The Department of Pharmacology offers students the opportunity to enter into the following graduate programs:

Doctorate (Ph.D): In Pharmacology. For further information contact the co-ordinator Dr Pascal Carrive (p.carrive@unsw.edu.au)

Departmental Vacation Scholarships: The Department of Pharmacology supports several summer vacation scholarships each year to enable good students to undertake short research projects within the department. For further details contact the Administrative Officer.

The School Teaching Administrator

Ms Carmen Robinson is able to provide additional information on any courses offered by the School. Student enquires Counter MG14 Wallace Wurth, ph: 9385 2464, Email: Carmen.Robinson@unsw.edu.au

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION BY EMAIL

All students in the course PHPH2011 are advised that e-mail is now the official means by which the School of Medical Sciences at UNSW will communicate with you. All e-mail messages will be sent to your official UNSW e-mail address (e.g. z1234567@student.unsw.edu.au) and, if you do not wish to use the University e-mail system, you **MUST** arrange for your official mail to be forwarded to your chosen address. The University recommends that you check your mail at least every other day. Facilities for checking e-mail are available in the School of Medical Sciences and in the University library. Further information and assistance is available from IT Service Centre, ph. 9385 1333. <http://www.it.unsw.edu.au/index.html>

Email etiquette: All email communication should be in formal English; students should provide their name, student number and course code.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance at practical classes/demonstrations is compulsory, and must be recorded in the class roll ON THE DAY OF THE CLASS. It is your responsibility to ensure that the demonstrator records your attendance and no discussions will be entered into after the completion of the class. Satisfactory completion of the work set for each class is essential. It should be noted that non attendance for other than documented medical or other serious reasons, or unsatisfactory performance, **for more than 1 practical class during the session** may result in an additional practical assessment exam or ineligibility to pass the course.

BEHAVIOUR IN PRACTICAL CLASSES

Students must take due care with biological and hazardous material and make sure all equipment is left clean and functional. Those who don't adhere to these basic laboratory rules will be marked absent.

A lab coat must be worn to all practical classes and enclosed shoes are compulsory. Punctual arrival is expected, and please turn off mobile phones before entering the class.

CONSENT FORMS

Practical classes involving your participation as a subject require you to sign a witnessed, informed consent form.

NOTICEBOARDS

Noticeboards for this course can be found on the 2nd floor of the Wallace Wurth building. Current timetables and information relevant to you will be displayed here and on elearning Vista. It is your responsibility to check these regularly.

COMPUTING FACILITIES

Computer facilities may be available to students in Rooms G2/G4 and 102/104. A multiple choice bank of questions is available for student revision. Access may be obtained by taking your student card to the Security Office on the ground floor (G009) of the Red Centre. Your student card will then allow you to operate the security lock on the door. Hours of access are 8:30am - 6:00pm. However, priority is given to scheduled classes and meetings. NB: The School would like to advise you that a record is kept of students entering the computer facility. Students will be held responsible for any damage.

Teaching Resources on the Department of Pharmacology's WWW Site

The Department of Pharmacology has chosen to use the University's central elearning vista service to provide teaching material for all of its courses. To access these materials, either point your browser to:

<http://vista.elearning.unsw.edu.au/>

or go to the School's home page at:

<http://medicalsciences.med.unsw.edu.au/>

then select "Current Students" from the menu bar and click on Vista, under "Quicklinks" in the left column.

You will need to click through the "UNSW" at the left, then click the "Log on" button and enter your Unipass credentials (zStudentNo. and password).

After logging on to Vista, look for the course PPHP2211. You should have access to it if you are properly enrolled.

Browser Settings which are needed for elearning Vista:

The central elearning service uses Vista. This makes extensive use of "pop-up" windows. Most browsers now block such pop-ups so you will need to allow pop-ups on this site for it to work properly for you.

The central elearning service recommends the use of the "Firefox" browser when accessing Vista. This will probably not be necessary in order to make use of the site for courses provided by the Dept. of Pharmacology. The features of Vista which don't work well in Internet Explorer are not used in our courses.

You can make use of Lectopia (previously iletecture) recordings taken of the lectures which are available on Vista. Lecture notes will also be made available on Vista either before or shortly after the lecture.

HANDWRITING

Students whose writing is difficult to understand will disadvantage themselves in their written assessment. Make every effort to write clearly and legibly. Do not use your own abbreviations.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

Please note the following Statement regarding Special Consideration.

*If you believe that your performance in a course, either during session or in an examination, has been adversely affected by sickness or for any other reason, you should notify the Registrar and ask for special consideration in the determination of your results. Such requests should be made as soon as practicable after the problem occurs. **Applications made more than three days after an examination in a course will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.***

*When submitting a request for special consideration you should provide all possible supporting evidence (eg medical certificates) together with your registration number and enrolment details. Consideration request forms are available from the Student Centre in the Chancellery and from Course Offices. In exceptional circumstances further assessment may be given. **If you believe you might be eligible for further assessment on these grounds, you should contact the Course Authority or the relevant Course Office as soon as possible.***

Please refer to UNSW Student Gateway @ www.student.unsw.edu.au for further details regarding special consideration.

MISSED ASSESSMENT ITEMS

If in any circumstances you unavoidably miss the final exam, mid session test or cannot hand in an assessment task on time, **you must inform the course coordinator and you must lodge a special consideration request**, supported by a medical certificate or other documentation to Student Central (see web address above) within **3 DAYS**.

Your request for consideration will be assessed and a deferred exam may be granted. You cannot assume you will be granted supplementary assessment.

If necessary, a supplementary final examination will be held in the week starting 30th November 2009.

Normally, if you miss an exam (without valid reasons) you will be given an absent fail. If you arrive late for an exam no time extension will be granted. It is your responsibility to check timetables and ensure that you arrive with sufficient time.

MISSED PRACTICAL CLASSES

Students who miss practical classes due to illness or for other reasons must submit a copy of medical certificates or other acceptable documentation to the course coordinator in Room M206. **Certificates should be lodged no more than 3 days after an absence.**

MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

Students who miss practical classes due to illness or for other reasons must submit a copy of medical certificates or other acceptable documentation to the course co-ordinator in Room M211B. **Certificates should be lodged no more than 7 days after an absence. Certificates lodged after 7 days will not be accepted.** The following details must be attached:

Name, Subject number, Group number, Date of the class, Name of class/s missed.

REPEATING STUDENTS

Practical class exemptions may be granted to repeat students but students **must** check with the course co-ordinator whether they have exemption **prior** to their first practical class. All students must be familiar with the material covered in the practical classes.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Those students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their teaching or learning environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course co-ordinator prior to, or at the commencement of, their course, or with the Equity Officer (Disability) in the EADU 9385 4734. Issues to be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional exam and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Refer to Student Central @:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/academiclife/StudentCentralKensington.html>.

PLAGIARISM

The School of Medical Sciences will not tolerate plagiarism in submitted written work. The University regards this as academic misconduct. Evidence of plagiarism in submitted assignments, etc. will be thoroughly investigated and may be penalised by the award of a score of zero for the assessable work. Evidence of plagiarism may result in a record being made in the Central Plagiarism Register and the Faculty Students Ethics Officer being notified.

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the presentation of the thoughts or work of another as one's own.¹ Examples include:

- direct duplication of the thoughts or work of another, including by copying material, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document (whether

¹ * Based on that proposed to the University of Newcastle by the St James Ethics Centre. Used with kind permission from the University of Newcastle

- published or unpublished), composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, web site, Internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement;
- paraphrasing another person's work with very minor changes keeping the meaning, form and/or progression of ideas of the original;
 - piecing together sections of the work of others into a new whole;
 - presenting an assessment item as independent work when it has been produced in whole or part in collusion with other people, for example, another student or a tutor; and
 - claiming credit for a proportion a work contributed to a group assessment item that is greater than that actually contributed.²

For the purposes of this policy, submitting an assessment item that has already been submitted for academic credit elsewhere may be considered plagiarism.

Knowingly permitting your work to be copied by another student may also be considered to be plagiarism.

Note that an assessment item produced in oral, not written, form, or involving live presentation, may similarly contain plagiarised material.

The inclusion of the thoughts or work of another with attribution appropriate to the academic discipline does *not* amount to plagiarism.

The Learning Centre website is main repository for resources for staff and students on plagiarism and academic honesty. These resources can be located via:

www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism

The Learning Centre also provides substantial educational written materials, workshops, and tutorials to aid students, for example, in:

- correct referencing practices;
- paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing, and time management;
- appropriate use of, and attribution for, a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre.

Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting, and the proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

APPEAL PROCEDURES

Refer to Student Central @:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/academiclife/StudentCentralKensington.html>.

² Adapted with kind permission from the University of Melbourne.

GRIEVANCE RESOLUTION OFFICER

In case you have any problems or grievance about the course, you should try to resolve it with the Course Organizer (Dr Trudie Binder ext 58737) or the Head of Department (Prof Margaret Morris ext 51560). If the grievance cannot be resolved in this way, you should contact the School of Medical Sciences Grievance Officer, Dr P.Pandey (9385 2483, P.Pandey@unsw.edu.au).

PHARMACOLOGY FOR HEALTH AND EXERCISE PPHP2211 S2 2009

Wk	Date	Practical Monday	Lecture 1: Biomed C Thursday 9-10 am	Lecture 2; Biomed C Friday 3-4 pm	Tutorials Thursdays & Fridays
1	20/7		Introduction & History of Pharmacology T. Binder / M. Morris	Sites of drug action: Dose Response T. Binder	Collection of course outlines & overview of assessment T. Binder / A Finch
2	27/7		Agonists and Antagonists T. Binder	Introduction to Receptors A. Finch	Essay writing skills G. Jones
3	3/8	Concentration Response: Agonists Binder, Finch	Receptor Signalling A. Finch	Introduction to Autonomic Pharmacology L. Liu	
4	10/8		Cholinergic Mechanisms 1 L. Liu	Cholinergic Mechanisms 2 L.Liu	Receptor Signalling A Finch
5	17/8	Concentration Response: Antagonists Binder, Finch	Adrenergic Mechanisms 1 A. Finch	Adrenergic Mechanisms 2 A. Finch	Cholinergics L Liu
6	24/8		Drugs of Addiction T. Binder	Anti-inflammatory drugs T. Binder	Adrenergics A Finch
7	31/8	β- blocker AF/TB	Drugs and Disease: Asthma T. Binder	TEST T. Binder	β-blocker: Data analysis A Finch
	7/9	MID SESSION BREAK			
8	14/9		Peptic Ulcer L. Liu	Drug Chemistry and absorption R Grant	
9	21/9	Drug Unknown G2/G4 Self directed learning	Drug Metabolism R Grant	Exam Revision T. Binder	Drug Metabolism R Grant
10	28/9		Neutriceuticlas R Grant	Alternative Medicines R. Grant	Anti-depressant (L) M Morris
11	5/10	Monday - Public holiday	Toxicology 1 A. Graudins	Diabetes M Morris	Cardiovascular(L) M Morris
12	12/10	Drug Excretion: Aspirin Binder, Grant	Clinical Pharmacology J Langlands	Future of Pharmacology: New drug targets A. Finch	Clinical Pharmacology J Langlands

LECTURE OUTLINES FOR INTRODUCTORY PHARMACOLOGY

SESSION 2

The course is divided into 5 main themes and will cover:

1. How drugs work
2. Autonomic pharmacology
3. The use of drugs
4. Alternative sources of drugs
5. Drug handling by the body.

1. HOW DRUGS WORK

History of Pharmacology

This lecture will provide a brief overview of the development of pharmacology throughout the ages. It includes, medications used by ancient civilizations, Materia Medica, early drug preparation, drug sources and storage, the birth of modern science and pharmacology, examples of drugs developed from plants, adverse reactions, and drug regulations.

Sites of Drug action: Dose Response

This lecture provides an introduction to pharmacodynamics – what the drug does to the body; it includes: receptors, affinity and efficacy, side effects, desensitisation, up and down regulation, quantitation of drug-receptor interactions, dose-response curves, ED50, and spare receptors.

Agonists and Antagonists

This lecture explores competitive antagonism, irreversible antagonism, functional (physiological) antagonism, chemical antagonism, the concept of tone, potentiation, partial agonist, quantitative response, quantal response, therapeutic ratio and indirectly acting drugs.

Introduction to Receptors

A cell responds to its environment by receiving signals. These signals are received by proteins, known as receptors, which in turn transmit the signal within the cell (this process is termed receptor or cell signalling). Receptors allow the body to detect not only what is happen in the outside world (eg taste, sight, sound, touch) but also what is happening within the body (eg blood pressure, heart rate, glucose metabolism). Receptors can be found either on the cell surface or in intracellular compartments. The main cell surface and intracellular receptor families will be covered

Receptor signalling

Receptor signalling is the process whereby a receptor relays the stimulus imparted by the binding of the ligand. This often involves a sequence of events mediated by second messengers inside the cell. Calcium's role as a second messenger will be explored. To maintain homeostasis within the cell the termination of signalling must also occur. The role of phosphorylation in signal termination will be covered.

2. AUTONOMIC PHARMACOLOGY

Introduction to Autonomic Pharmacology

Introduction to the autonomic nervous system (ANS) and the parasympathetic nervous system (PNS). Synaptic release of acetylcholine and cholinergic transmission. Cholinergic receptor classifications and distributions.

Cholinergic Mechanisms

Cholinomimetic compounds: acetylcholine, methacholine, carbachol, bethanechol, muscarine, pilocarpine; anticholinesterases: physostigmine, neostigmine. Uses, contraindications, toxicology. Antimuscarinics, Atropine, Hyoscine (Scopolamine), Homatropine, Propantheline. Effects of muscarinic blockade on CVS, GI system, glands, urinary tract, respiratory system, eye, CNS: uses and contraindications. Ganglion blockers, hexamethonium etc; effects on body systems. Uses, contraindications.

Adrenergic Mechanisms

Catecholamines. Synthesis and Metabolism of Catecholamines. Adrenergic receptors. Alpha-1 adrenergic agonists and antagonists. Alpha-2 adrenergic agonists and antagonists. Beta adrenergic agonist and antagonists. Indirectly acting sympathomimetic amines.

3. THE USE OF DRUGS

Drugs of Addiction

This lecture encompasses drug dependence and abuse. Patterns of drug use in Australia. Why take drugs? Reward, pleasure and addiction. How drugs act at a cellular level; tolerance, dependence and withdrawal. Different classes of Drugs: Opioids, Alcohol, Stimulants, Cannabis, Hallucinogens, Nicotine.

Peptic Ulcer

Introduction to current views on pathogenesis of peptic ulcer focussing on *Helicobacter pylori*. Factors contributing to *H. pylori*-related gastric pathology; clinical symptoms of gastroduodenal ulcers and diagnostic tests; pharmacological treatment options: e.g. proton pump inhibitors (PPI); histamine H₂ blockers, antacids, combination of antibiotics and PPI.

Anti-inflammatory Drugs

Inflammation is the response of the body to invasion by a pathogen (infection) or injury, This lecture will provide an overview of the therapeutic strategies to treat inflammation. The lecture encompasses eicosanoid biosynthesis, NSAIDs, paracetamol and DMARDs, including their mechanism of action.

Drugs and Disease: Asthma

This lecture introduces drug treatment and disease, using asthma as an example. Treatments for asthma and associated pharmacology. Bronchial asthma, inflammatory cells and mediators, commonly used anti-asthmatic drugs [β –adrenergic agonists, xanthines, glucocorticoids, oral steroids]. Asthma management, treatment of severe acute asthma, viral infections, novel treatments for asthma

Diabetes

After a brief overview of endocrine function, major issues regarding treatment of endocrine disorders will be addressed. This lecture will focus on epidemiology and rationale for treatment of diabetes, including the adverse effects of therapy. The need for ongoing monitoring of therapy will be highlighted.

Cardiovascular Pharmacology

Definition of hypertension, primary (essential) and secondary hypertension, consequences of untreated hypertension, guidelines for treating hypertension, non-pharmacological treatment including lifestyle issues, pharmacological treatment including ACE inhibitors, angiotensin 2 receptor blocking agents, diuretics, calcium channel blocking agents and beta blockers.

Anti-depressants

Monoamine theory of depression; pharmacology of anti-depressant drugs (tricyclic anti-depressants; monoamine oxidase inhibitors; "atypical" anti-depressants) important adverse reactions to these drugs including the underlying mechanisms.

Clinical Pharmacology:

Concept of therapeutic range of plasma concentrations. Factors controlling unbound and total plasma concentrations of drugs. Examples of drugs whose plasma concentrations are monitored.

4. ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF DRUGS

Alternative Medicine

Alternative medicines describes the use of, generally plant or animal based, preparations not currently established as conventional therapeutic treatments. This lecture will briefly discuss the role of alternative medicines in healthcare and identify key elements for a reasonable evaluation of their use.

Food drug interactions

The therapeutic effects or side effects of a medication can affect nutritional status. Conversely, diet nutrient supplementation or nutritional status can decrease a drug's efficacy or increase its toxicity. Failure to identify and properly manage drug-nutrient interactions can lead to serious consequences. This lecture outlines drug / nutrient interactions including alterations in pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics, the effect of food on drug therapy and the effect of drugs on food and nutrition.

5. DRUG HANDLING BY THE BODY

Drug Chemistry & Absorption

Acidic, basic and neutral drugs; relationship between lipid solubility and ionization; characteristics of transfer of drugs across cell membranes, passive diffusion, active transport.

Drug metabolism

Drug absorption and pathways of metabolism of drugs leading to either inactive or active metabolites. Contribution of Phase I (oxidative) and Phase II (conjugative) pathways to drug metabolism. Factors affecting drug metabolism - other drugs (induction, inhibition), age, disease states, genetic factors. Polymorphic drug metabolism and its consequences. Renal secretion of drugs affecting secretion. Effects of other drugs, protein binding, pH and age on renal elimination. Renal dysfunction and drug elimination.

Toxicology

Introduction to toxicology and the mechanisms by which chemicals elicit adverse effects in the human body; toxicokinetic and toxicodynamic aspects and their clinical relevance. Natural toxins, animal and plant, their pathophysiological effects and treatment.

Future of Pharmacology: New Drug Targets

What does the future hold for pharmacology? Will the majority of drugs still target membrane receptors? Has reading the human genome lead to the identification of new drug targets? What will be role of “omics” in drug discovery? Is the twenty-first century the era of personalised medicine? What role will antibodies and gene therapy play in medicine of the future? All these questions and more will be covered as we look into pharmacology’s crystal ball.