BOOK REVIEW

A Practical Guide to Implementing Clinical Mass Spectrometry Systems

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The book "Practical Guide to Implementing Clinical Mass Spectrometry Systems" by Neil Leaver describes a condensed and knowledgeable assembly of issues that need to be considered when deciding on the addition of mass spectrometry competence (either for the first time or in order to add novel machinery) into a clinical setting.

The book contains 10 chapters, a reference list, and an index; all neatly assembled on 84 pages. Each chapter can be read as a stand-alone piece of advice and ends with a chapter summary, which helps to navigate through the book for re-reading particular issues of interest.

As the book not only covers aspects of importance during the decision-making process prior to purchase but also outlines application examples of routine clinical measurements and

potential conflicts with necessary assay set-up and/or validation requirements, it invites re-reading of individual chapters dedicated to the respective issue.

Although the author makes clear in the very first chapter that his views and outlines should be regarded as restricted to "clinical high-performance liquid chromatography with mass analysis and detection," his thoughts to all mentioned aspects in the book can be considered of interest to those who use other methods of analysis.

As such, this book opens the potential for all addressed readers (i.e., administration, laboratory personnel, and instrument vendors) to learn about and perhaps also to understand better the specific needs and problems of each of them, by sharing the experience of a knowledgeable expert in the field.

In its welcome brevity, this book neither intends to provide the research groups with luring arguments of how to increase their instrumentation assembly, nor does it try to teach the laboratory personnel. Instead, the statements in this book are right on the point and contain clear messages of high value. The subject that is addressed is in fact challenging because it needs a distant perspective with oversight that enables the analyst to adopt different views that are all equally important.

In sum, all aspects on a decision-making process are addressed from the perspectives of different players in the process of implementing clinical mass spectrometry systems. These players have different experiences and expertise, including the administration, the user, as well as the vendor and, hence, the book can be recommended to all of them.