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Book review: SHANE P. DESSELLE, DANA P. HAMMER. Handbook for Pharmacy Educators: Getting Adjusted as a New Pharmacy Faculty Member. Binghamton, NY: Pharmaceutical Products Press. 88 pp (hardcover) $24.95

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Adjusted as a New Pharmacy Faculty Member. Handbook for Pharmacy Educators: Getting
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SHANE P. DESSELLE, DANA P. HAMMER.

Handbook for Pharmacy Educators: Getting
Adjusted as a New Pharmacy Faculty Member.
88 pp (hardcover) $24.95.

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The Handbook for Pharmacy Educators: Getting Adjusted As a New Pharmacy Faculty Member is designed to assist new faculty members in colleges and schools of pharmacy in better understanding their new role and in the development of a successful career. These goals are accomplished through a collection of chapters written by junior, mid-career, and senior pharmacy faculty members representing basic science, social and administrative science, and pharmacy practice in public and private institutions.

The description of a new faculty member’s first days on the job that appears in the Introduction was written by Guest Editors Drs. Shane P. Desselle and Dana P. Hammer, and is an excellent opening for this book. These authors clearly delineated the goals, rationale, and outline of the book, but also provide an excellent summary of data on issues that confront faculty members. This chapter is much more than an Introduction and is highly recommended reading.

The second chapter, “Establishing Equilibrium in the Pretenure Years: A Chemist’s Perspective in a School of Pharmacy,” by Dr. John M. Rimoldi, is written from the perspective of a mid-career basic science faculty member at a public university. The most valuable information is contained in the last half of the chapter, where the author describes how he approached each major component of his responsibilities, and discusses mentoring. Although the initial section of this chapter is of limited usefulness and difficult to navigate because of a lack of subtitles, overall the chapter is well written and will be most beneficial to new basic science or research-focused faculty members.

In the third chapter entitled, “Persistence and Patience: Necessities for New Faculty Members: Experiences of a First-Year Pharmacy Practice Faculty Member at a Public University,” Dr. Nanette Bultemeier provides an excellent, open, honest overview of what a pharmacy practice faculty member can expect. The author provides an excellent overview of their thought process in considering the tenure or nontenure track options. This chapter provides considerable depth on the set up and provision of clinical service and less depth in the other areas that are discussed. This chapter is highly recommended for new pharmacy practice faculty.

The first part of the fourth chapter, “New Challenges, New Opportunities: Perspective of a New Faculty Member,” by Dr. Scott K. Solte, is focused on his decision to become a faculty member and work at a particular private university. The first-person perspective of this chapter is overwhelming and detracts from its messages. Also, the lack of chapter subtitles makes it difficult to navigate. Nevertheless, new pharmacy practice faculty members would benefit from this author’s experiences and perspective.

“And You Think Your Job Stinks? Think Again: Every Cloud Does Have a Silver Lining” is a bold, ominous title to the fifth chapter, written by Dr. Gireesh V. Gupchup. This author begins this chapter by describing the unfore-
seen circumstances that occurred as he arrived as a new social and administrative sciences faculty member, and then goes on to describe how he survived as the only one in his discipline at the university. The discussion of research activities is the highlight of this chapter, with the author providing insights into his naïveté and the difficulties he encountered and is provided in a manner we can all learn from. The final sections on “Other Important Issues and Final Thoughts” provide valuable insights into collegiality, tenure, and what he learned. The descriptions of teaching, service, and mentorship are also useful. This chapter is also highly recommended reading for all new faculty members.

In chapter 6, Dr. Ana Quiñones reflects on the “Life and Times of a New Social and Administrative Sciences Faculty,” as a mid-career social and administrative sciences faculty member at a private university. This chapter also provides her perspectives on the challenges and advantages of being a woman and a minority in academia. This chapter also reveals an interesting story that will resonate very well with some faculty members.

The final chapter, “Succeeding in Academe: Self-Management and Passion,” is written from the perspective of a senior social and administrative sciences faculty member, Dr. Lon N. Larson. This is an excellent concluding chapter. The author humbly provides fascinating insights into building a successful career by focusing on self-management and passion. His “Closing Comments” should be considered required reading for new and old faculty members. The entire chapter is also highly recommended reading.

Areas in this book that could be improved are relatively minor ones. All of the chapters were useful, but some were not as strong as others. It is somewhat difficult to navigate the entire book for specific content because (1) the titles of the chapters appear to be inconsistent with their content, (2) there are no summaries or abstracts of each chapter, and (3) certain chapters contained no or minimal section or subsection titles. My major concern is in the balance of the disciplines represented, which is not proportional to the balance of faculty, particularly new faculty, in the various disciplines in colleges and schools of pharmacy. Of the 7 chapters, 4 are authored by social and administrative sciences faculty members, 2 by junior pharmacy practice faculty members, and 1 by a mid-career basic science faculty member. Most noteworthy is the absence of the perspective of mid-career or senior pharmacy practice faculty members and, of secondary importance, is the absence of the perspective of a junior basic science faculty member.

The strengths of these chapters and this book are very evident. The personal perspective from several different viewpoints greatly enhances this book and is expected to help new faculty members understand how an individual in their own discipline approached their position, but also what types of issues confront faculty in other disciplines. A few chapters provided very useful data from the literature. The consistency of discussing collegiality and mentoring throughout these chapters indicates the importance of these 2 aspects to new faculty members and was particularly strong. Finally, the chapters appear honestly and well written.

In conclusion, I would highly encourage every college and school of pharmacy to consider using the chapters from this book in the orientation and development of new and junior faculty members. The Introduction chapter and the final chapter have widespread application, whereas the other chapters will be very useful to specific faculty members.


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For many years, Burger’s Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Discovery has been considered the landmark reference text for medicinal chemists. The new sixth print edition of this series, which consists of more than 5500 pages spanning 6 volumes, is a Memorial Edition to Professor Alfred Burger. Dr. Burger, one of the early academic scientists to design and synthesize a compound in his laboratories that