

INTRODUCTION

Quick Review Q & A's is intended to serve as a study aid to improve performance on national certification examinations in medical laboratory science at both the technician and scientist levels. (Technician candidates may skip the chapter on management and education.) The book will also be helpful to students as they prepare for examinations in their program courses and to practitioners who are cross-training and need a review of theory. The book is based on more than 30 years experience teaching hundreds of students who have successfully passed certification examinations at both levels.

The book is written in rapid-fire question/answer format. You will be challenged to generate your own answer rather than choosing one based on recognition or guessing. Many of the answers provide additional information beyond what was asked in the question. Together these questions and answers provide a review of the knowledge base required to answer typical examination questions. Case studies and work practice scenarios are included to give you practice in applying the knowledge.

Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the content of this book at the time of publication; however, since medical laboratory science is a rapidly changing field, you are encouraged to verify the answers using recently published textbooks. On occasion, discrepancies were found within and among references that were used in the preparation of this book. In that case, information was either selected from the most recent publication or confirmed by more than one source. Reference ranges (normal values) vary from textbook to textbook and from laboratory to laboratory. You should learn those for the laboratory where you are or will be working. On exams, select the answer that is closest to the reference range in your laboratory. Be sure to pay attention to the units of measure.

Use of this book alone will not guarantee a passing score on national certification examinations. Following is a suggested study plan to maximize your score:

- Most importantly, allow plenty of time for your review—ideally, at least 3 months. Make a study schedule and stick to it. Frequent, short study sessions will be more productive than long, infrequent ones. Review one discipline at a time.
- Use *Quick Review Q & A's* for a general review and to identify topics that need further study. Go through the book one section at a time and mark the questions that you were not able to answer correctly or completely. It may be beneficial to study with a classmate and ask each other the questions.
- Go back to your textbooks to review the topics in the questions that you missed. Make study notes. If you have questions, ask your instructor or a certified MLS.
- You may find my *Quick Review Cards for Medical Laboratory Science*, 2nd ed, to be helpful (F.A. Davis, ISBN: 978-0-8036-2956-1). They provide summary charts and tables of the most important information.
- Once you are satisfied that you have had a complete review of the topics covered in *Quick Review Q & A's*, use a multiple-choice review book to practice answering that type of question.
- When you think you are prepared, consider taking a practice examination offered by one of the certification agencies and use the scores to help you identify any areas that require further review.
- Go back to your textbooks to review those areas.
- Finally, get a good night's sleep, take the big exam, and show them what you know! You should be well prepared.