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Introduction to Public Health in Pharmacy

Levin BL, Hurd PD, and Hanson A. Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Sudbury, Massachusetts, 2008. Softcover, 356 pages. ISBN 9780763735395. Price: US\$61.95.

Goal 6 of the recently published CSHP 2015 goals is "To increase the extent to which pharmacy departments in hospitals and related health care settings engage in public health initiatives on behalf of their communities". This goal speaks to the need for hospital pharmacists to become more involved in public health. Similarly, the Blueprint for Pharmacy outlines the need for pharmacists in all practice settings to become more involved in health promotion, disease prevention, and management of chronic disease. These documents, along with a number of other initiatives already under way, emphasize the importance of a role in public health for pharmacists working in all settings.

The objective of *Introduction to Public Health in Pharmacy* is to provide in-depth information focusing on the role of pharmacy in the public health arena. The book's content will be extremely valuable as pharmacy and pharmacists seek to expand their role in this realm. This detailed and well-referenced book consists of 15 chapters grouped into

3 parts: Public Health Knowledge Base, Pharmacy and Public Health Services, and Applications for Pharmacy Practice. The section on the knowledge base for public health provides an introduction to public health and pharmacy and a detailed section on epidemiology for pharmacists. It also covers disease prevention and promotion, as well as environmental, occupational, and behavioural health. The section on pharmacy and public health services covers such topics as an overview of public health services in the United States, evaluation in pharmacy practice, financing, managed care, and pharmacoeconomics. The section on applications in pharmacy practice discusses such topics as evolving issues in pharmacy practice, law and ethics, cultural perspectives, public health informatics, health emergency preparedness and response, and education and training.

More specifically, the book describes the opportunities for pharmacists in a broad range of public health activities encompassing vaccination programs, disease prevention, health promotion, chronic disease management, and compliance programs. It also covers the financial side of public health, dealing with access to medications for patients who lack financial means. It discusses the role of pharmacists in all practice settings and considers health promotion and disease prevention in the broader context. The authors present several case studies to demonstrate practical applications of the principles outlined in the book. Each chapter also features a section on implications for pharmacy practice.

The book provides details specific to the US health care system and therefore has limited value in terms of specifics for Canadian pharmacists, although the general principles and knowledge presented are applicable in the Canadian setting.

This book presents comprehensive information about and principles related to public health, particularly as it relates to pharmacy practice, albeit in the context of the US health care system. It would be a valuable resource for pharmacists and pharmacy educators who wish to learn or teach about the role of pharmacists in public health.

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