

Science & Technology \ Chemistry

Corey, E.J. **Molecules and medicine**, by E.J. Corey, B. Czakó, and L. Kürti. Wiley, 2007. 254p bibl index; ISBN [9780470227497](#), \$49.95. Reviewed in 2008mar CHOICE.

Molecules and Medicine is an engaging book that takes the reader into the world of small molecule clinical therapeutics and how they are discovered and used to improve health. The book begins with an introduction to organic chemistry and biochemistry, with a particular emphasis on understanding chemical structure. Subsequent chapters are organized predominantly by disease classification, such as cardiovascular health, autoimmune disease, or infectious disease. Within each class examples are provided of compounds deemed significant because of their application to improve health, with no duplication in regard to mechanism of action against a particular disease. Each page is dedicated to one compound, giving year of discovery, year of introduction, main use, and related drugs immediately underneath the structure of the compound. The written descriptions about the compound vary widely, but are always informative and interesting. At times Corey, Czakó, and Kürti (all, Harvard Univ.) describe historical aspects that led to the discovery of the compound, while in other cases the disease itself is emphasized. In all cases, the authors meet their target of writing for a broad audience, from the layperson with a curious mind and interest in the subject to professionals and researchers.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels. -- P. W. Baures, *University of Tulsa*