Introduction to the Pharmacy Profession

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To my husband, John C. Lovett III, whose love and support provided me the time, strength, and perseverance to complete this textbook.

— Annesha W. Lovett

I would like to thank my wife, Hannah, and our three kids; Sam Jr, Anabel, and Daniel, for being there for me always.

— Sam K. Peasah

I would like to thank my husband, Patrick Ding, and my children Delaney, Ada, and Daniel for their love and support.

— Hong Xiao

I would like to thank my mother, Thelma I. Perkins, my brother, Richard Perkins, and my late father, Philip I. Perkins for their everlasting and unending love, encouragement, and support.

— Phyllis Perkins
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We’re glad you have decided to learn more about the profession of pharmacy by picking up this book. Pharmacy is a unique and exciting profession that allows you to collaborate with other healthcare professionals, contribute to the safe and effective provision of medications, and participate in various forums to explore new ways to improve our healthcare system.

It is our hope that this textbook will stimulate your interest in pursuing or furthering a career in pharmacy, be it in a traditional or nontraditional sense. The opportunities to develop your personal niche are nearly endless, and completing a pharmacy program will give you a solid foundation from which to begin. The next step will be to focus on a specific area of pharmacy that sparks your interest. More than 35 pharmacists have come together in this edition to encourage you, provide invaluable advice regarding a wide range of
pharmacy careers, and outline many of the critical issues you should consider in preparing for the future of the profession.

We begin with an overview of the pharmacy profession, followed by an in-depth answer to the question, “What must one do to become a pharmacist?” Additional advice on how to prepare and gain experience is summarized in easy-to-read tables, including tips on resume preparation, interviewing techniques, and obtaining a professional internship. Topics such as pharmacist salaries, work environments, and the future of the profession are also discussed. Finally, this textbook includes a comprehensive pharmacy career assessment tool to help you make informed decisions about your future career path.

This is a textbook designed for pre-pharmacy and current pharmacy students interested in learning more about the profession and the kinds of career opportunities it offers. Pharmacy students can benefit from this resource to help them focus and narrow down their interests prior to graduation as they consider specific job paths and options.

When we were pharmacy students we had many questions about the field. We wondered which path was the best to take in order to achieve our goals. We challenged ourselves to think outside the box in terms of the types of services we could provide as future pharmacists. We sought out mentors and soaked in advice from experienced pharmacists with various backgrounds. Now that we are in a position to teach and advise, we see these same questions emerging, time and again. It is our hope that this textbook will provide some answers to these questions and get you thinking outside the box. Thinking about the contribution you will eventually make to the profession of pharmacy, as well as to our overall healthcare system is crucial, and we hope this text helps you create and achieve your goals. We wish you the very best as you embark on this great adventure.
We would like to thank the many people who assisted us in the development of this resource. Special appreciation is extended to the staff at Jones & Bartlett Learning, specifically Katey Birtcher, Teresa Reilly, Chloe Falivene, and Joanna Lundeen.

Sincere gratitude goes out to our family, friends, and colleagues. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of many pharmacists from across the country. We are most grateful to the students whose inquisitive minds inspired us to write about the profession and the countless diverse careers it offers.
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