Stahl's Essential Psychopharmacology: Neuroscientific Basis and Practical Applications
Synopsis
With this fully revised fourth edition, Dr Stahl returns to the essential roots of what it means to become a neurobiologically empowered psychopharmacologist, expertly guided in the selection and combination of treatments for individual patients in practice. Embracing the unifying themes of 'symptom endophenotypes', dimensions of psychopathology that cut across syndromes, and 'symptoms and circuits', every aspect of the text has been updated to the frontiers of current knowledge, with the clarity of explanation and illustration that only Dr Stahl can bring. Integrating much of the basic neuroscience into the clinical chapters, and with major additions in the areas of psychosis, antipsychotics, antidepressants, impulsivity, compulsivity and addiction, this is the single most readily readable source of information on disease and drug mechanisms. This remains the essential text for all students and professionals in mental health seeking to understand and utilize current therapeutics, and to anticipate the future for novel medications.

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Customer Reviews
When I had first read Dr. Stahl’s Essential Pharmacology (3rd Ed.), I was absolutely fascinated with the presentation and wished that psychopharmacology was taught this way in medical school. This latest edition does not disappoint either. When the book arrived in the mail I was quite curious why the packaging for it was not as thick as I expected (readers of Stahl know how thick the previous edition was). That’s because the book has been reformatted into a larger page size and some redundancy in the chapters was eliminated. I have to say I really like the new format; it’s not quite a
full sized textbook and in my opinion is perfect because neither textbook nor smaller-sized (yet Bible thickness) lend themselves to ease of transport. As far as the actual content goes, readers will find that the book is very similar yet significantly updated as to not feel like one is reviewing the same book as the previous edition. I have only thus far given the book a cursory overview, but the ambiguities I noticed in the previous edition have been seemingly cleared up. Another fantastic aspect of the new edition is a more in depth analysis of specific receptor subtypes. Dr. Stahl continues to show his great insight in biological psychiatry, and I highly rate his series!

this is far and away the most effective text for teaching students about psychopharmacology. it is clearly written for the educated "naive" in a graduate program, i.e., those students familiar with brain functions to a certain extent and needing to drill down more deeply to understand medications, pharmacy, and behavior connections.

Stahl uses tons of illustrations, almost cartoon-like, which make this topic easier to grasp. Expensive, but really up to date and full of knowledge. Stahl also writes with a really people friendly manner—he’s funny!

While Essential Psychopharmacology does not exactly make the topic easy, it is the most straightforward, understandable and useful book I have found. The book is well ordered and is written clearly. The schematic drawings have helped me make sense out of subject matter that is often delineated in multisyllabic science-speak.

This test is beautifully written, easy to understand with great illustrations. This is a must have for clinicians in mental health.

As usual for Stahl, a world-class series of heuristic cartoons makes clear the abstruse matters of receptor chemistry, drug mechanism, & clinical applications—or at least, it makes them as clear as can be expected given the currently incomplete state of brain science. Check back for later editions of this great text as the decade of the brain proceeds. I hope Dr. Stahl does not plan to retire before its end. If he does, his publisher better have a successor lined up.

This is an advanced course on neurobiology, neuropsychology, psychopharmacology; his excellent drawings make a very complex subject more understandable. Not sure we need to know the exact
name and abbreviation of every enzyme and protein in the process; perhaps he could make a third level of explanation, even more simple. I am sure any mental health worker or researcher who understands all this is miles ahead of those who do not. The Kindle edition is very helpful since I do not have to carry around the massive book but can read a few pages now and then between patients on any internet device that has the Cloud Reader. Bravo!

I have purchased every edition since the first. This one continues in the line of outstanding texts. The condensed format is easier to work with and I cannot yet detect any significant loss of information. This text has less repetition and refers more to other parts of the text for explanations of some topics than the previous edition. Neuropsychopharmacologic scientific advances are incorporated in the several chapters I have examined so far.

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