

# GUIDE FOR READERS

The **Contents** (p. vii) shows the pages on which readers will find titles of sections and chapters and the Index. **Thumb tabs** with appropriate abbreviations mark each section and the Index.

Each **Section** begins with its own table of contents, listing chapters and subchapters in that section.

**Chapters** are numbered serially from the beginning to the end of the book.

The **Index** contains many cross-entries; page numbers in bold-face type signify a major discussion of a topic. In addition, **cross-references** throughout the book direct readers to specific page numbers for more information.

**Running heads** carry the section number and title on left-hand pages and the chapter number and title on right-hand pages.

**Abbreviations and symbols**, used throughout the book as essential space savers, are listed on p. xiii. Other abbreviations in the text are expanded at their first use in the chapter or subchapter.

The **Tables** and **figures** found throughout the text are referenced appropriately in the Index but are not listed in a Table of Contents.

**Laboratory values** in the book are given in conventional units. In most cases, however, SI units follow in parentheses.

**Drugs** are designated in the text mainly by generic (nonproprietary) names. In Appendix III, many of the drugs mentioned in the book are listed in a table alphabetically, with each generic term followed by one or more trade names. This table is followed by another table that provides an alphabetical list of many trade names followed by the drug's generic name.

**Important:** The authors, reviewers, and editors of this book have made extensive efforts to ensure that treatments, drugs, and dosage regimens are accurate and conform to the standards accepted at the time of publication. However, constant changes in information resulting from continuing research and clinical experience, reasonable differences in opinions among authorities, unique aspects of individual clinical situations, and the possibility of human error in preparing such an extensive text require that the reader exercise individual judgment when making a clinical decision and, if necessary, consult and compare information from other sources. In particular, the reader is advised to check the product information provided by the manufacturer of a drug product before prescribing or administering it, especially if the drug is unfamiliar or is used infrequently.