

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

The Fourteenth edition of *The Merck Index* contains 10,200 monographs describing significant chemicals, drugs, and biological substances. The entries cover a wide range of compounds which have been selected on the basis of present or historic importance and interest. Since the publication of the Thirteenth Edition in 2001, over 5,000 monographs have been significantly revised and updated. More than five hundred monographs have either been combined or deleted from the manuscript to make room for hundreds of new entries. Nearly 450 of these monographs, as well as 540 monographs archived from the Twelfth Edition, are presented in their original form on the companion CD which accompanies this volume.

Entries are generally limited to single substances and related compounds such as isomers or salts. While multi-component drugs are, for the most part, excluded, there are a number of monographs devoted to families of natural products or biological substances. Monographs vary greatly in length. The length of a monograph, however, is not necessarily indicative of the importance of a compound, but rather may simply be an indication of the amount of relevant published information available for the compound.

For the purpose of illustrating the general monograph format, a typical monograph is depicted and the components are identified. While all possible categories of information in a monograph are described below, it must be emphasized that not all categories are present in every monograph.

**Monograph Number.** Sequential accession numbers are assigned to monographs which are alphabetized by title. Entries in the indices are referenced to these accession numbers, not to page numbers. (*Note:* Monograph numbers in the Fourteenth Edition do not correspond to Thirteenth Edition monograph numbers.)

**Monograph Title.** Titles are usually simple chemical names or in the case of drugs, the commonly used generic name such as the USAN (United States Adopted Name) or INN (International Nonproprietary Name). Registered trademarks, designated by ®, are used for a small number of entry titles, primarily when nonproprietary terms are not available. Plant monographs are titled using a common name rather than the full botanical name.

**Chemical Abstracts Registry Number(s).** The Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) Registry Number appears following the title. These unique identifiers are provided for title substances and for selected derivatives. Where appropriate, numbers for isomeric and unspecified forms of the compound are listed. Descriptors are appended to the entry if more than one registry number has been associated with the compound.

**Chemical Abstracts Name(s).** The uninverted form of the CAS Index Name appears in native font following the CAS Registry Number. When a specific isomer is being discussed, stereochemical descriptors have been included to more clearly delineate that isomer. CAS Registry Numbers and CAS Index Names are provided as aids for further searching of the compound of interest in *Chemical Abstracts* and elsewhere.

**Alternate Name(s).** Other chemical names, trivial names, experimental drug codes, and trademarks that identify the entry are listed. Listing of trademarks