

# A HANDBOOK OF BIOANALYSIS AND DRUG METABOLISM

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EDITED BY  
**Gary Evans**



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## *Editor's preface*

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Originally this book was to be called 'Grievess Harnby's Guide to Bioanalysis and Drug Metabolism', as the project conceived by David Scales was going to be produced by Grievess. Unfortunately Grievess died following a heart attack shortly after he retired. We decided to complete this book and dedicate it to his memory. Grievess had worked in Research and Development in Glaxo in all its various guises from 1961 until he retired in 1996. The majority of that time he was involved in the formation of a new discipline – Drug Metabolism arising out of the regulatory changes introduced in the late 1960s. I was recruited by Grievess in 1979 and worked with him for the next 18 years. Each chapter in this book was written as an individual contribution by one or more authors, all of whom worked at Glaxo-Wellcome at the time of writing their chapters. It was decided to allow each chapter stand alone. Each chapter was the responsibility of the contributing authors. All of the chapters compliment each other and present a comprehensive picture of the breadth of functions and activities which are included in Bioanalysis, Pharmacokinetics and Drug Metabolism.

Gary Evans

# Preface

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I came to drug metabolism and bioanalysis rather late in life when, in 1995, I was appointed VP of the Division in GlaxoWellcome. It was the time of the merger between two great companies and I had the unenviable task of making many fine people redundant. I remember a lunch meeting with Grieves Harnby, at the beginning of, what was euphemistically called, the integration process. With only two years before retirement Grieves was convinced he would be a casualty of the reorganisation. I however wanted him to stay, for it gave me the chance to work with one of the founding fathers of industrial drug metabolism. When I told him of his promotion to position of International Director, he nearly choked on his sandwich. This was the only time I ever saw Grieves lost for the right words.

Grieves acted as a mentor and guide to many. I was fortunate that he was mine, if only for two brief years. His task was to convert me from a toxicologist into what he called 'a real scientist'. The new company had many outstanding individuals who devoted time and effort, under the watchful eye of Grieves, in getting me up to speed. It was from this teaching programme that the idea for a book grew. It was envisaged that it would cover the necessary information to work in a pharmaceutical drug metabolism and bioanalysis function. Staff from the company based in the USA, Italy and the UK agreed to contribute. Grieves would work on the project, post-retirement, on those few rare occasions when he was not improving his golf handicap.

To our great sadness, Grieves died shortly after retiring. It is a tribute to the man that his loss created a void in so many lives. His friends and colleagues still toast his memory and mourn his passing. Mike Tarbit, who knew him for many years, has captured, in an anecdotal reminiscence given below, some of Grieves' humour and humanity.

The book was still very much at a preliminary stage when we lost our Editor-in-Chief. We decided, however, to continue with the project. Gary Evans took over the herculean task of acting as editor, as well as cajoling the contributors to finish their chapters. It is a great credit to Gary and all the authors that, despite yet another merger, the book has finally been completed. It is, of course, dedicated to Grieves Harnby.

David Scales  
Henley-on-Thames  
England

# *Grieves Harnby: In memoriam*

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I had the pleasure and privilege to know Grieves for nearly twenty years before his untimely death. He was a rare person: a true, loyal, humorous, but candid, friend. Humour, wit and sagacity oozed from Grieves at all times. 'Candid' meant, with Grieves, that he would always tell you what he really thought with characteristic northern bluntness, whether it was what you wanted to hear, or not! He could kill with a sentence! If you have the courage to treasure such friendship, it always serves you well, and Grieves gave me immeasurable guidance and counsel over the years of our shared time in GlaxoWellcome.

Grieves had an almost uncanny and yet completely natural gift in communicating with people, and anecdotes abound about his ability to get on with strangers in no time at all. Thus, for example, he was the only person in my experience, who could have made such an impression with the normally 'detached' and 'seen it all before' air crew on one 40 minute USAir flight that the air hostess put her arm round him and kissed him goodbye as he was leaving the flight! No concern over sexual harassment there! Indeed he specialised in 'melting' air crew, and perhaps the most famous example of this was when the normal USAir/British Airways connection from our North Carolina laboratories to Heathrow, via Philadelphia, went badly awry due to storms, and we were stranded in Philadelphia. Much to Grieves' obvious delight, we were driven to New York by British Airways and brought home on Concord. Soon after take-off, a fairly formal and slightly upper crust 'Concord class' lady Purser arrived with a wine carrier laden with vintage Dom Perignon, Chateau Beychevelle St Julien and an excellent Mersault. The basket was offered to Grieves, not someone normally viewed as a wine connoisseur, with a svelte "And which wine would you like Sir?" "All of them, Pet!" was his reply, delivered with such a twinkle that three glasses were instantly placed on our tables by a giggling Purser, along with three bottles of wine! After that we owned the plane! Grieves felt that he had enjoyed the experience of a lifetime on that flight.

Mike Tarbit

GRIEVES HARNBY GLAXO: 1961–1996, Drug Metabolism

