

Introduction

This book inaugurates a new series of publications by the Esteve Foundation aimed at exploring (or, perhaps, one should say re-exposing) basic or seminal articles in the development and consolidation of different aspects of pharmacotherapy. The choice of clinical pharmacology to start the series should not come as a surprise, if one takes into account the outstanding role of the discipline in the shaping of modern therapeutics, but some may wonder at the restriction imposed in this volume by choosing papers from a single author. The answer is quite simple: each of the titles in this series will represent the highly personal and biased opinion of the editor in selecting the reprinted papers, and the lines in the foreword to the volume his or her opportunity to defend the stated preferences. In my case, I shall be quite clear: I believe that many before and at the same time as Lou Lasagna have made outstanding and pivotal contributions to the field of clinical pharmacology, and I hold many of them in deep reverence, but Lasagna's contributions embrace such a large array of topics and have provided me with such a continuing source of pleasure and enlightenment for several decades that I have not been able to resist the temptation to put my choices together and make this a monoclonal volume.

The subjectivity behind the selection of papers has already been mentioned and any attempt at justifying the choice may be preposterous. Personal enjoyment has always been behind it, but an attempt to present the broad range of subjects covered by Lou's wit and sensitivity has also played a role. Whether the choice is a right one is more than questionable, but this may be somehow immaterial if some of the papers reprinted here give the reader only a fraction of the pleasure that they offered me when I first read them or when I picked them up again to prepare this volume.

Sergio Erill

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