(34) CS Good (ed) (1976) *The Principles and Practice of Clinical Trials* Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone

Preamble

The book is based on a Symposium organised by the Association of Medical Advisers to the Pharmaceutical Industry held at the Royal College of Physicians on 6th and 7th May 1976. The details of the book that arose from the first Symposium are presented at no. (22) above.

Aims

This book is intended for use by medical advisers in the pharmaceutical industry and clinicians who are involved in the evaluation of drugs. It is designed mainly for those new to the field, as was the first edition, but it also contains much useful information for those with experience who wish to improve their knowledge or expand their interest. The highly successful first edition went out of print last year. Many aspects had changed since it was published. Therefore a fresh symposium with the same title was held again at the Royal College of Physicians, to bring the material up to date. The further developments in clinical trials to which this book pays particular attention are: the rapidly increasing costs of trials, and how to budget for them; the increasing complexity of statutory legislation; the somewhat arbitrary division of clinical trials into phases I to IV; the great increase in attempts to monitor adverse reactions and the development of drug surveillance programmes; the advances in data handling and statistical analysis (Preface, page vii).

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