FROM TEST TUBE TO PATIENT:

IMPROVING HEALTH

THROUGH HUMAN DRUGS

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research ◆ Special Report

Donna E. Shalala, Ph.D.
Secretary of Health and Human Services

Jane E. Henney, M.D.
Commissioner of Food and Drug Administration

Janet Woodcock, M.D.
Director of Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

Editor
Marcia L. Trenter
FDA/CDER/OTCOM
Division of Communications Management

Internet:
http://www.fda.gov/cder
Phone: 1-888-INFO-FDA

Editorial Matters
Address for editorial matters is *FDA Consumer,* Food and Drug Administration (HFI-40), 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 1999 edition of one of the FDA's most popular and enduring publications: *From Test Tube to Patient.* This book tells the story of new drug development in the United States and highlights the consumer protection role of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. The drug regulatory system in the United States has been evolving over most of the 20th century. This latest update captures the most recent changes and reforms, including those stemming from the 1997 FDA Modernization Act.

This publication recognizes the importance of drug development in the total picture of healthcare for the American people. Articles discuss various aspects of this process, from test tube to medicine cabinet; drug testing from laboratory, clinician and patient perspectives; how scientists and physicians in the center balance benefits and risks; and the roles of consumers, healthcare providers, advisory committees and FDA inspectors in making sure drugs are safe and effective. Since the center's and FDA's responsibilities do not end once a drug is approved, this publication examines the increasingly important area of post-market surveillance.

Some of the articles in this edition have been updated from previous editions, some are reprinted from recent issues of *FDA Consumer*, and a few are entirely new.

An FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research ◆ Special Report

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Improving Health Through Human Drugs

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