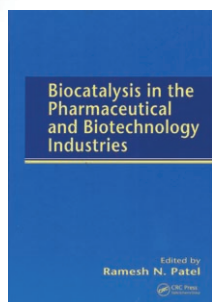




Biocatalysis in the Pharmaceutical and Biotechnological Industries



Edited by
Ramesh N. Patel.
CRC Press/Taylor & Francis Group,
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Seven years after the publication of his work *Stereoselective Biocatalysis*, Ramesh N. Patel, the Head of Enzyme Development at Bristol-Myers Squibb in New Brunswick, NJ, USA, has edited another profound book on the application of biocatalysis in the pharmaceut-

ical and related industries. This new book has a total of 34 chapters, all written by experts in the field, mostly from academia, but also several from industry, with the latter covering the chemical, fine chemical, and pharmaceutical industries. The book has an interesting selection of topics: most focus on a class of enzymes or group of reactions, while those contributions from industry cover a wider swathe of pharmaceutically interesting compounds. Importantly, some chapters also cover novel techniques that are relevant for the improvement of the properties of biocatalysts, such as the ability to generate molecular diversity or to undergo enzyme evolution.

Each chapter has a separate table of contents and a separate list of references, so that the reader can quickly access topics of particular interest. I also found the index at the end of the book very helpful in finding the proper chapter or section therein for a given subject. Among the many advantages of this book are the comparatively even quality of coverage within each of the 34 chapters, and also the careful editing work, neat organization of each chapter, extensive list of references after each chapter, and beautiful typeface and chemical formulas. The list of references at the end of each chapter is almost always impressive in its breadth and depth.

The focus of this book is on applications of biocatalysis in the synthesis of pharmaceutical molecules. Therefore, the reader will not find much coverage of the basics, of processes for producing pharmaceutical ingredients, or of different routes to the same active pharmaceutical ingredient (API). Nor, apparently, does the book aim to cover as many classes of therapeutic molecules as possible. Nevertheless, the choice of chapter topics and of authors does provide a good overview of the status of biocatalysis in the field of pharmaceutical applications.

In summary, this book is a pleasure to read. While in all likelihood it was not meant to be read through systematically, it will prove very rewarding for the reader who just immerses him- or herself in the material. As such it is recommended to all professionals, both industrial and academic.

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