

disease. The chapter on use of beta-glucan to control diabetes and cardiovascular disease focuses on the current limitations, available beta glucan concentrates and the effects on the lipid and glucose metabolism. The next chapter deals with the nutritional value of major pulses, problems related to the presence of anti-nutritional factors and the beneficial role of soybean and other legumes in prevention of cardiovascular.

This book concludes with another important aspect of food processing, i.e. food fermentation and its role in prevention of cardiovascular disease. Fermentation is one of the oldest methods of food processing and can be considered as a desirable microbial activity in foods. This process can also contribute to the nutritional value of the fermented food by increasing the bioavailability of nutrients or by the production of vitamins and other nutritional components by fermenting microorganisms. The chapter has been focussed on the fermenting capabilities of lactic acid bacteria, production of B vitamins, production of low-calorie sugars and some probiotic effects related to cardiovascular disease.

This book is expected to be beneficial to food scientists and technologists, biochemists, nutritionists, public health professionals, physicians, pharmaceuticals as well as entrepreneurs who are designing, processing and marketing new functional foods. It will not only support research and development but will also be suitable for academia.

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**D.C. Lee and M. Webb, editors. Pharmaceutical Analysis, Blackwell Publishing Ltd, Oxford, UK, 2003 (xv + 364 pp., £99.50, ISBN 1-84127-335-X)**

Pharmaceutical industry is one of the most active areas for the application and development of new methods in analytical sciences. The analytical technology covers an immense range of techniques and disciplines, which play a very important role in the analysis of active ingredients of the starting materials and the quality control of the finished products. Pharmaceutical industry has direct impact on the human life, therefore, understanding and application of

the analytical techniques in pharmaceuticals is really a topic of current interest.

This book focuses on the analytical techniques in drug manufacture and provides information on the analysis of active ingredients. The first chapter gives an overview of quality systems and regulations in the pharmaceutical industry. The latest approaches used in the development of achiral separation methods for analysis of impurities and degradant molecules relating to active pharmaceutical ingredients are described in the subsequent chapter.

The importance of chirality in many fields of natural and applied science is well established. In pharmaceutical analysis, this topic commands its own nomenclature and determination of chiral purity is one of the most important and challenging areas in the analysis of pharmaceuticals. The importance of chiral analysis together with the development of techniques across the separation sciences is described in a separate chapter. Polysaccharides have been employed in the development of chiral stationary phase (CSP) and polysaccharide-based CSP have been amongst the most successful and useful ever since the early 1990s. The development and widespread use of coupled techniques forms a major part of the chapters covering nuclear magnetic resonance and mass spectrometry.

The vibration of molecules can be studied by both infrared (IR) and Raman spectroscopies. Chapter 6 on vibrational spectroscopy gives a brief overview of IR and Raman spectroscopy with examples from a number of application areas demonstrating the usefulness of both the techniques in the pharmaceutical laboratory.

Microscopy has numerous applications in solid-state analysis of pharmaceuticals. The physico-chemical aspects of microscopy are considered in chapter on microscopy and imaging. The final chapter deals with another important aspect of process analysis in the pharmaceutical industry. We hope this book would be excellent source of reference to persons involved in the pharmaceutical research and make them familiar to broad range of techniques and their various applications.

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