

FOREWORD

A few months ago, Professor Rhodes, editor for Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy (DD & IP) phoned to discuss his idea of creating a special issue of the journal focusing on Rate-controlled Drug Delivery. His hope was that such an issue would serve to direct attention and to motivate research activities in this important area of biomedical-pharmaceutical research.

This appeared to be a feasible idea since we already had a number of articles accepted for publication, several more articles were in the peer review process, and additional manuscripts were in preparation.

We initially accepted with some ambivalence, wondering just how this non-traditional approach would be received. Yet, because we are assured that each article has passed the peer review process and has been accepted for publication on its own scientific merit, we feel privileged to present to the readership a series of 13 research articles organized to cover transdermal, intravaginal, theoretical and subcutaneous aspects of rate-controlled drug delivery.

Professor Rhodes also requested that I briefly introduce the Controlled Drug Delivery Research Center at Rutgers University, College of Pharmacy. The center was established in 1982 as part of my academic assignment to (1) conduct basic research in rate-controlled drug administration and (2) to apply the fundamentals of controlled-release technology to the development of novel drug delivery systems.

Currently the Research Center is staffed with 5 research faculty members, 2 postdoctoral researchers and 13 graduate students actively researching the areas of:

- 1) Transdermal rate-control medications with enhanced bioavailability
- 2) Oral controlled drug administration with prolonged GI transit
- 3) Subcutaneous controlled release of macromolecular drugs
- 4) Intranasal controlled drug administrations and enhancement
- 5) Intravaginal controlled drug administrations
- 6) Medicated artificial skin for burn management
- 7) Kinetics and thermodynamics of membrane permeation and effects of chemical structure.
- 8) Selective targeting controlled drug delivery

In view of the fact that there are many fine researchers in the area of rate-controlled drug delivery, it is a privilege to have the opportunity to present our research to you in such a focused manner. We thank Dr. Rhodes for his consideration of us. It is our sincere hope that these articles will be informative and beneficial to the readership, and that they will serve as a stimulus for continued and expanded research in Rate-controlled Drug Administration.

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