

Book Review

Pharmaceutical Skin Penetration Enhancement
edited by Keneth A. Walters and Jonathan Hadgraft
Published by: Marcel Dekker, Inc. (1993)
270 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10016
Price \$150.00, 448 pages hardcover

This book will undoubtedly be well-received by all who have any involvement in the formulation, evaluation or regulatory approval of topical products. The current interest in penetration enhancement is lively and many research groups, both in academia and industry, are presently very active in this area. Thus, publication of this book is most timely.

The editors are to be commended for performing an outstanding job in assembling a team of authors - a number of whom are internationally known for their research in this important field - who have labored to produce what are generally excellent, critical reviews of the topics assigned to them. There is some overlap in coverage but your reviewer did not find it to be excessive. The selection of topics is very good, ranging from "Water: The most Natural Penetration Enhancer" through to " Veterinary Applications of Skin Penetration Enhancers" and "Skin Penetration Enhancement: Clinical Pharmacological and Regulatory Consideration" chapters covering specific enhancers, the use of iontophoresis and ultrasound provide detailed information of a specific nature. The authors appear to have performed well in their search of the literature. The references given are both numerous and up to date, most chapters seem to cover papers published up to about 1990 to 1992. The many figures and tables are well prepared and are a great asset to the book.

Of course, there are some statements in the book with which not everyone will agree. Thus, on page fifty-two Friend and Heller state in their discussion of ethyl acetate: " The odor of ETAC, while pleasant under certain conditions, must be

considered as well. Wearing the patch on the back will be required to minimize any potential problems concerning the fruity smell of ETAC".

Purchase of this fine book is recommended to all in Universities, the pharmaceutical industry and regulatory agencies with any present or likely future interest in this field, although I recognize that with a price of \$150 this book can hardly be described as cheap in any sense of the word.

C.T. Rhodes, Ph.D.