

BOOK REVIEW

Chemically induced birth defects

Second Edition, Revised and Expanded  
James L. Schardein  
Marcel Dekker, Inc. 1993  
920 pages, hard cover  
\$250, price subject to change without notice

This book is obviously an essential reference text for anyone working in the pharmaceutical industry, academia, or with any professional interest in chemically induced birth defects.

The author is to be commended for the completion of a truly Herculean task. The result is a scholarly, in-depth and critical review of our knowledge - and lack thereof - for chemically induced birth defects. For a subject in which excessive emotionalism or financial self-interest may so easily distort objectivity of judgement the calm professionalism of the text is an especially valuable attribute.

Few, if any, readers will read the whole text from cover to cover, however, many of us who are active in pharmaceutical research would be well-advised to read some of the chapters.

This book costs \$250 which is a substantial sum. However, the cost/benefit ratio for this weighty sum, which contains so many valuable facts and references, is clearly such as to justify the purchase of this important reference text.

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INDUSTRIAL ASPECTS OF PHARMACEUTICS

Edited by Erik Sandel

Swedish Pharmaceutical Press Stockholm, 1993

298 pages hard cover

This book has been produced under the aspics of the Swedish Pharmaceutical Society. It comprises some twenty-three chapters covering a variety of topics of interest to the pharmaceutical scientist working in industry. Among the topics covered are: **accelerated** stability testing, characterization of powder surface areas, rheology of pharmaceuticals, preformulations, the compatibility of pharmaceutical powders, the granulation process, particulate matter in parenteral products, pulmonary and nasal administration of drugs, and QC and cGMP's. As with any multi-author book there is considerable variance in the level of treatment. Some topics are only covered at a rather elementary level where other areas are subjected to a more advanced treatment.

The book is beautifully produced with excellent figures and a useful index. This book may well be useful as a reference text.

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### **Pharmaceutical Particulate Carriers: Therapeutic Applications**

Edited by Alain Rolland

1993

Published by Marcel Dekker, Inc.

270 Madison Avenue

New York, NY 10016

448 Pages, hard cover, \$155.00 (price subject to change)

Dr. Rolland is to be congratulated in editing this most useful book which is likely to be of considerable value to many pharmaceutical scientists.

The thirteen chapters which comprise this book cover, in a generally up-to-date and authoritative manner, a range of most important topics such as: liposomes in topical ocular drug delivery systems, particulate delivery: the challenge of the oral route, drug carriers from the oral administration and transport of peptide drugs across the gastro-intestinal epithelium, design and properties of particulate carriers for intravascular administration and particulate carriers in dermal and transdermal drug delivery: myth or reality.

The book has a plethora of graphs, tables and photographs and a large number of useful references. As with any multi-author book the style of the various chapters show significant differences, however, the book is easy to read and it has a quite useful subject index.

This book is likely to be regarded as an essential purchase by both the pharmaceutical industry and academia.

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