

## Book Reviews

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**Handbook of Pharmaceutical Granulation Technology**, Edited by Dilip M. Parikh. Published by Marcel Dekker, Inc., 270 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016-0602, USA. Hardcover, 536 pages, \$175.00.

This multi-author book provides a useful review of granulation technology. Inevitably, there is some significant variation in style and depth of treatment by different authors. For example, some chapters have an excellent comprehensive list of references—some as recent as 1996—whereas in other chapters the coverage is less than satisfactory. In general, the style is clear and concepts are well explained. The photographs and diagrams of machinery and processes are most helpful and add an extra and greatly appreciated dimension to

the book. There are readers who might feel that some topics, such as granulation end-point detection or the use of near infrared for assay of granules, should have been given greater attention. Others may feel that the treatment of bioavailability and granule properties (10 pages, 18 references, most recent 1984, with some recommended reading, most recent 1990) is somewhat superficial. However, it is believed that most readers will find much of the book to be useful.

This book is recommended as an essential addition to the library of any laboratory with present or likely future interests in pharmaceutical granulation.

C. T. Rhodes  
July, 1997

**Mechanisms of Transdermal Drug Delivery**, edited by Russell O. Potts and Richard H. Guy. Published by Marcel Dekker, Inc., 1997; 270 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016; 376 pages, hard cover, \$150.

The Editors of this book state in the Preface that their objective "is to provide an up-to-date and critical evaluation of the application of biophysical tools and analysis for the determination of molecular transport across the skin."

It is this reviewer's opinion that the Editors have, indeed, succeeded in reaching their objective. The nine chapters which comprise this book provide authoritative and lucid expositions of a variety of key topics in

transdermal drug delivery. The chapter authors, who come from the United States, Canada, The Netherlands, Australia, France, Wales, England, and Japan, have prepared thoughtful reviews of their topics which, in general, neither overestimate advances nor disregard problems. There are some minor problems with the book. For example, some chapters have almost 200 references with work as recent as 1996 being referenced, which others have less than 30 references, with the most recent being 1994.

The topics covered include detailed evaluations of a number of modern techniques of value in investigating transdermal flux of drugs. Anyone active in transdermal research should undoubtedly purchase this book. It should certainly be available in the library of any phar-

maceutical company with current or possible future interest in transdermal pharmaceuticals. Also, this book might well be considered for designation as a recommended or required text for graduate courses by

those universities that have a particular interest in transdermal drug delivery.

C. T. Rhodes  
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