Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy, 32:645, 2006

ISSN: 0363-9045 print / 1520-5762 online
DOI: 10.1080/03639040500529226

Taylor & Francis

Book Review

Drug Discovery Handbook; Shayne Con Gad, ed., John Wiley and Sons Inc. and Wiley-Interscience Concurrent Publication, Hoboken, New Jersey and Canada, 2005. Cloth (pp 1372 plus pp 99 index), ISBN: 0-471-21384-5, price $160.00.

This handbook, written by some 108 authors and edited by Shayne Gad, a consultant from Cary, North Carolina is composed of 29 chapters and 1372 pages. The editor indicates that the individual authors are leading representatives from the field of drug discovery. Indeed, the handbook is an ambitious undertaking considering the scope of each chapter and the overall size of the handbook. The editor says that the handbook represents a unique attempt to survey the different approaches to drug discovery. I concur with this statement and would add that both the drug industry and medical sciences will greatly benefit from this handbook.

The essence of the handbook can best be ascertained by examining some of the chapters. *Cancer Cell Proteomics Using Molecular Aptamers* (Chapter 2) is important because the new class of molecules called aptamers may greatly challenge the role of antibodies in molecular diagnosis in the near future. *High Filter Flow Cytometry* (Chapter 5) shows advantages over existing techniques. *Age of Regulation* (Chapter 8) attempts to render a clear understanding of the precepts that can help one understand future FDA actions. Because the process of drug discovery has changed considerably during the last decade, *Design and Pharmaceutical Application of Prodrugs* (Chapter 17) aids the scientist in optimization of potent structures and solves potential formulation or delivery problems. *Combinatorial Chemistry in Drug Discovery Process* (Chapter 21) addresses the plethora of processes to significantly shorten the lead development time of a new drug molecule. *RNA Therapies* (Chapter 27) stresses how all kinds of diseases, including those resulting from genetic defects can be addressed through the use of modified RNA therapies.

I would recommend that a copy of the handbook be available in industrial and academic libraries involved in pharmaceutical and medical science research. It might also be adopted and used for graduate level courses. The book is costly at $160 per copy and therefore having it available for students to share as a resource would be beneficial.

James T. Stewart
Professor Emeritus
University of Georgia