

BOOK REVIEW

Drugs: From Discovery to Approval, by Rick Ng, Second Edition. Wiley-Blackwell, Hoboken, NJ, USA, 2009, Hardback, 466 pp. ISBN 978-0-470-19510-9, \$96.50

This is the second edition of a very popular book that overviews and details the whole range of processes, issues, and regulatory hurdles that occur for drug discovery, testing, and marketing. After a good introduction, the discovery process is well-detailed in Chapters 2–4—Drug Discovery: Targets and Receptors, Drug Discovery: Small Molecule Drugs, and Drug Discovery: Large Molecule Drugs. Later stages are detailed in Chapters 5 and 6—Drug Development and Preclinical Studies and Clinical Trials. Chapters 7–10 detail the regulatory requirements of drug manufacture, distribution, and marketing—Regulatory Authorities, Regulatory Applications, Good Manufacturing Practice: Regulatory Requirement, and Good Manufacturing Practice: Drug Manufacturing. The book ends with a thought provoking and insightful Future Perspectives chapter and a series of appendices containing more specific examples and case studies that illustrate the generalized chapters previously.

The book is written in a very readable style and benefits from the coherence and purpose that a monograph book allows. There are case studies and examples throughout, so it is really enjoyable to read cover to

cover, and this is a real strength of the book. Rather than reading selected chapters from an edited book, one is drawn to the chapters that are not based on one's own expertise and as a result learns a lot about the whole picture of drug discovery. Therefore, there is a wide audience that could benefit from this book, as well as the usual interested readership. For example, it could form a good text for a drug discovery course at Pharm. D Graduate (or advanced Undergraduate) levels or could be even a valuable asset for faculty or investors, interested in a Pharma Start-Up. While the focus is on FDA and European regulatory processes, there is useful overview of worldwide regulatory issues with clear guidance on major and emerging markets such as Japan and China, to at least acquaint the reader with these processes. While it cannot replace specialized texts or consultant resources, it allows an easy entry into the field for the reader to clearly understand the whole process. There are a few minor errors in some chemical structures, but this is a minor concern. Overall, this is a well-written, easy to access, and informative book that is recommended to a range of audiences.

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