

# Monitor: molecules and profiles

*Monitor* provides an insight into the latest developments in drug discovery through brief synopses of recent presentations and publications together with expert commentaries on the latest technologies. There are two sections: *Molecules* summarizes the chemistry and the pharmacological significance and biological relevance of new molecules reported in the literature and on the conference scene; *Profiles* offers commentary on promising lines of research, emerging molecular targets, novel technology, advances in synthetic and separation techniques and legislative issues.

## Monitor Editorship

After many years as our *Monitor Editor*, Andrew Lloyd has decided to hand on the role. Andrew has been an outstanding Editor for the *Monitor* section over the years and has played a crucial role in launching, sustaining and evolving the journal to the excellent standard that it is today.

On behalf of the editorial team and the readers, I would like to thank Andrew for his support, enthusiasm and contributions to the journal since its inception. It has been a pleasure working with him.

We wish him good luck for the future and for his new role as Professor of Biomedical Materials at the University of Brighton, UK. In the meantime, please send all ideas, proposals, outlines and articles for *Monitor* to: Debbie Tranter, Editor, *Drug Discovery Today*, 84 Theobald's Road, London, UK WC1X 8RR. e-mail: [deborah.tranter@current-trends.com](mailto:deborah.tranter@current-trends.com)

Debbie Tranter  
Editor  
*Drug Discovery Today*

Farewell....

As the last member of the original team who brought you the first issue of *Drug Discovery Today*, I have finally decided to pass on the 'Monitor' chalice. Having been involved from an embryonic stage, it has been particularly rewarding to be part of the conception, birth and development of such an important internationally acclaimed journal. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me over the recent years with regular contributions, feedback and 'Profiles'. In particular, I'd like to thank the editorial and advertising support teams at Elsevier with whom I have had the pleasure of working. The journal is now entering a new era under the guidance of an exceptionally talented editorial team – I wish them all the very best for the future and hope they get as much enjoyment out of contributing to the dynamic force in drug discovery as I have done over the past 5 years.

Andrew Lloyd

## Molecules

### Dual sodium and calcium channel blocker with antioxidant activity

The progressive and delayed death of nerve cells following cerebral injury and cerebrovascular diseases, such as

stroke, has been associated with a rise in intracellular calcium ion concentration as a consequence of the failure of intracellular energy-dependent ion homeostasis. This calcium ion overload results in a cascade process resulting in disorders

of mitochondrial function and activation of calcium ion dependent enzymatic reactions. The calcium ion activation of nitric oxide synthase, phospholipase A<sub>2</sub> and xanthine oxidase also causes an increase in the degeneration of reactive

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