

## Book reviews

### **Prediction of Percutaneous Penetration**

K. Brain, V. James, K. Walters (Editors) STS Publishing, Cardiff; 318 pp.; £120; ISBN: 0-948917-10-5

Anyone wondering what the current state of research is in the field of topical drug delivery is well advised to follow the progress of the Prediction of Percutaneous Penetration Conferences. I contributed myself once, and so am aware of the value of such specialist meetings. Although I have grown rather sceptical about the future and relevance of transdermal research, I am impressed by the wide range of potentially relevant topics covered in this volume. Of course, all of the big names are here: Richard Guy presents his usual summary of recent progress in his laboratories and John Hadgraft presents a large number of papers. I especially like Mike Roberts articles, as his work always appears to me to be of relevance for pharmaceutical practice. This book contains all together some 80 abstracts each of 3 or 4 pages, so the reader can obtain detailed information about the results of each project.

This volume of proceedings belongs in every pharmaceutics library where research into topical drug delivery is been done. Only few articles are of interest to the industrial pharmacist seeking to develop transdermal systems. This book is an extremely valuable source of information about the current effort in finding new relevance for the skin as a barrier. I recommend all the volumes in this series to university researchers working in this area. They should have the complete set.

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### **Ocular Therapeutics and Drug Delivery**

I.K. Reddy (Editor); ISBN: 1-56676-213-8

In the last couple of years books about ophthalmic drug delivery have been published with a surprising

frequency. One of the reasons for this frequency is the fact that designing drug delivery systems for the eye is an incredibly difficult task. Hence the market may be ready to absorb more books on ophthalmics than on other topics. Indeed, the development of modern ocular drug delivery systems is complex and interdisciplinary.

The newest book covering ophthalmic delivery, 'Ocular Therapeutics and Drug Delivery' edited by I.K. Reddy, is mirroring this complexity and interdisciplinarity. The book contains 19 chapters and begins, as it should, with fundamental aspects and moves to the applied. The first chapter gives an overview over the topic. The book continues with chapters about surface chemical aspects of ocular delivery, biological barriers to ocular delivery, pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic correlations of ophthalmic drugs, drug metabolizing enzyme systems in the eye, artificial tear formulations, irrigating solutions and contact lens products, clinical pharmacology of the anterior segment of the eye, recent developments in anti-glaucoma drug research, vitreoretinal diseases: pathological aspects and therapeutic strategies, prodrugs: a chemical approach to ocular drug delivery, the use of retrometabolic drug design concepts in ophthalmic drug discovery, development of soft drugs for ophthalmic use, topical ophthalmic formulations: basic considerations, polymers in ophthalmic drug delivery systems, microparticulates as an ocular delivery system, protein and peptide drug delivery for the eye, evaluation of primary ocular irritation: alternatives to the draize test, packaging aspects of ophthalmic products, and finally, a brief history of drug regulation and regulatory issues governing ophthalmic products: a biopharmaceutic perspective.

As reflected by this listing of the chapters, the book is a comprehensive text that covers most of the issues important for the eye. Indeed, it gives a good review of the above listed aspects. It is, however, less practically oriented and less 'hands on' than the classic book on ophthalmic preparations 'Ophthalmica' by Dolder and Skinner that was issued by APV. Therefore, the new book is of less value than the classic for the pharmacist involved in the formulation of ophthalmics. On the other hand, it covers most of the latest developments in ophthalmics and related basics, of course with a time