

the data. This section covers decision analysis of complex situations in the treatment of single patients as well as the right use of *P* values and specific techniques of analysis. Section 4 describes *Communicating Results*. This section contains a useful chapter on statistical consultation in clinical research, and an excellent chapter on importance of Beta, the type II error. This chapter would also fit into Sections 2 or 3. The last section (5) is on *Reviews and Meta-Studies*. It contains a chapter on medical technology assessment and two chapters on meta-analysis, i.e. assembling and simultaneously analysing information from different sources.

In conclusion, this book can strongly be recommended for beginners as well as for professionals, who prefer to have a lot of information bundled into one book rather than searching for every piece of information in the literature.

H. Ludwig*

*Institut für Pharmazeutische Technologie und
Biopharmazie, Universität Heidelberg,
Heidelberg, Germany*

* Gruppe Physikalische Chemie, Institut für Pharmazeutische Technologie und Biopharmazie, Universität Heidelberg, Im Neuenheimer Feld 346, D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany. Tel.: +49-6221-54-52-36/34; fax: +49-6221-54-59-60.

E-mail address: horst.ludwig@urz.uni-heidelberg.de (H. Ludwig).

PII: S0939-6411(02)00003-6

Drug Targeting Technology

Hans Schreier (Ed.), Marcel Dekker, New York, 294, ISBN 0-8247-0580-7, \$150

Volume 115, entitled 'Drug Targeting Technology' came out in Marcel Decker's renowned series of monographs on 'Drugs and the Pharmaceutical Sciences'. Twenty-five authors discuss in ten chapters one of the key issues of modern drug application, namely how to construct and fire the magic bullet, i.e. to target a given drug exactly to the place of its action.

The book contains three sections, each with two to five chapters. The first section discusses physical targeting approaches such as enteric targeting through enteric coating, new coating materials, pharmacokinetic considerations in

the design of pulmonary drug delivery systems and mechanisms involved in diffusion enhancement of topically applied drug formulations. The second section outlines chemical targeting approaches, such as drug targeting by retrometabolic design and neoglyco- and neopeptide albumins for cell-specific targeting of drugs to diseased livers. The final section focuses on gene therapy approaches using biological targeting approaches namely artificial viral envelopes, virus-liposome hybrids and modified targeting of viral vectors.

This new volume of 'Drugs and the Pharmaceutical Sciences' is a well written black and white illustrated book, which provides broad information about various targeting approaches in a mostly clear and user-friendly manner. Most chapters are presented to a high standard and therefore they accomplish their intention to discuss the important factors involved in drug targeting. However, considering the very broad scope of drug targeting, it becomes obvious, that not all aspects were treated adequately. On one hand, coating of solid dosage forms, which actually does not precisely fit into the definition of drug targeting is discussed in two chapters. On the other hand, some novel developments in drug targeting, such as immuno-liposomes or immuno-nanoparticles for targeting of the blood-brain barrier or tumor cells, which would have necessitated a separate chapter, are not mentioned. In the broader sense, physical targeting approaches where it is also used in this book in terms of local drug delivery and change of body drug distribution, drug delivery concepts, using e.g. polymers, should also have been included.

Nevertheless, in summary the book is a useful guide to many people working in the specified areas of drug targeting with a wealth of literature references.

A. Fahr*

*Institut für Pharmazeutische, Technologie und
Biopharmazie, Phillips-Universität Marburg,
Marburg, Germany*

* Institut für Pharmazeutische, Technologie und Biopharmazie, Phillips-Universität Marburg, 35037 Marburg, Germany.

PII: S0939-6411(02)00004-8