

divided into three chapters: I. Fundamentals, II. Drug Delivery Applications, III. Other Applications and Scale-up Issues. As is usual in Anglo-American books the fundamental works from Europe, which in this case is Germany, are not mentioned by name. Papers by Stahl and Loth from 80s, which first described the micronization of drugs by means of SCF-techniques are not mentioned, neither are the basic papers on the extraction of drugs from plants. This is a little surprising, as these describe the basic principles which are used for the further application in Pharmacy. However, this book provides a good overview of the present state of technology. For the user or potential user the section particle formation in supercritical phases, and also methods for particle production in chapter I are certainly the most interesting parts. Here the thermodynamic processes, for instance the droplet formation on the nozzle and precipitation are described as are also the different processes such as PCA, SAS and ASES. A core chapter deals with the production of powders for respiratory drug delivery with a very good overview of the drugs which have already been micronized with the aid of various SCF techniques. In a further chapter the possibilities for selective production of polymorphous and pseudo-polymorphous forms of different drugs are described and also the changes in surface properties of particles produced with an SCF-technique are shown. A fairly small chapter deals with the embedding of drugs in polymer carriers. Here the production of solid solutions from drugs with poor solubility is described. The embedding of drugs in biologically degradable polymers and the production of microparticles is described in the chapter "Formulation of Controlled Release Drug Systems". Here the problem of the choice of polymer (glass transition temperatures in the area of the critical temperature of the gas phase) and the particle separation is not described fully (the electrostatic particle separation is missing). A separate chapter deals with the processing of biological materials with SCF techniques. The influence of supercritical gases on the microorganisms are shown, and the influence of the SCF-technique on the processing of peptides, proteins and phospholipids. The chapter "Asymmetric Catalysis in Supercritical Fluids" has little to do with the processing of drugs and does not really belong in this book. The chapter "Analytical and Semipreparative Supercritical Fluid Chromatography in Drug Discovery" also is more suited to a different reader target group. These pages would have been better used in a more detailed presentation of the section "Drug Extraction" in which in the reviewer's opinion essential aspects are missing or not adequately described. The chapter "Development and Potential of Critical Fluid Technology in the Nutraceutical Industry" permits a brief look at the potential beyond the pharmaceutical field, and the last chapter of the book is dedicated to the problems of scaling up. Here there is a specific bias to the situation of one manufacturing company.

To sum up it can be said that this book gives the current state of knowledge very well and it can be recommended to everyone who is interested in the field of SCF-techniques.

Bernd W. Müller*

*Department of Pharmaceutics & Biopharmaceutics,
Christian-Albrecht-University,
Gutenbergstrasse 76, D-24118 Kiel, Germany
E-mail address: bwmueller@pharmazie.uni-kiel.de*

*Tel.: +49 431 880 1333; fax: +49 431 880 1352..

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Antiviral Drugs

John S. Driscoll, Ashgate Publishing Ltd, Hampshire, England, 200 pages, ISBN 0-566-08310-8, Hardback, £60

Antiviral drugs are becoming more and more important. For this reason, this book, "Antiviral Drugs" represents a needed very useful comprehensive overview about these substances. The book starts with a 3 page introduction on "How to use this book" followed by an extensive list of abbreviations. The main part of this book consists of three chapters, one appendix, and two indexes. The first chapter entitled "Infectious Microorganisms" provides a 20 page overview about these microorganisms with a special focus on viruses. The next chapter, "Antiviral Drug Discovery and Development", discusses briefly on 13 pages the history of antiviral drug development and gives a description of the different steps of preclinical and clinical testing, including test systems, screening, rational drug design, lead optimisation, resistance, pharmacokinetics and toxicologic studies, and the three clinical phases. The third and most important chapter, "Antiviral Drugs", contains 78 pages. It describes in an encyclopaedia style the modes of action of all the different classes of antiviral drugs and includes a concise biological and pharmacological description of each of the 72 antiviral drugs covered in this book. The appendix (13 pages) gives a compilation of the chemical data of all of the 72 compounds including a two-dimensional chemical structure, main record name, CAS registry number, Merck Index number, EINECS number molecular formula, chemical name, synonyms, use, pharmacology, toxicity, physical properties, and manufacturer/supplier. The latter data are represented in the Merck Index style. Last not least, the book has an extensive 44 page index. In conclusion, this book provides a comprehensive encyclopaedic reference for everybody working with antivirals.

J. Kreuter*

*Institut für Pharmazeutische Technologie Biozentrum-
Niederursel Johann Wolfgang, Goethe-Universität Marie-
Curie-Strasse 9, Frankfurt/Main 60439, Germany
E-mail address: kreuter@em.uni-frankfurt.de*

*Tel.: +49 69 798 29682; fax: +49 69 798 29724.

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