

Chirality in Drug Design and Development

Indra K. Reddy and Reza Mehvar, editors, (2004, Marcel Dekker, New York). ISBN 0-8247-5062-4.

The stereochemistry of drugs has become a critical issue in drug discovery. This book is a collection of related chapters by panels of contributing authors giving insights into the most important features that must be considered. In the beginning, the consequences of physical properties of chiral drugs and chiral excipients on liberation and transport processes are described. After a discussion of stereoselective pro-drug activation strategies, the stereo-specificity of drug action and pharmacokinetic properties are presented. This includes the chiral inversion during metabolism reactions and bioequivalency determinations. Finally, regulatory considerations in drug development of stereoisomers are given.

The book covers most of the essential issues unless the title is a little bit misleading because the field of drug design

and the correlation between threedimensional molecular structures and biological activity is discussed only very briefly. In some instances, chiral drugs are discussed without giving even the structural formula. Nevertheless, I strongly recommend this book to pharmaceutical scientists in academia and industry dealing with the development for chiral drugs.

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