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Book review

David J. Hauss (Ed.), Oral Lipid-Based Formulations, Informa Healthcare, New York, 2007, 339 pp, $ 229.95. ISBN 978-8247-2945-5.

Oral lipid-based formulations have been attracting increasing interest as an alternative for formulating poorly water-soluble drugs. However, there is a misbalance between the enormous scientific efforts and achieved progress during the last years and the industrial application of this innovative formulation option. In front of this background, volume 170 in the Drugs and the Pharmaceutical Sciences Series gives an overview over the theoretical and practical aspects of lipid-based oral formulations and highlights some of the challenging aspects of this developing technology.

David J. Hauss invited 25 internationally accepted experts coming from both academia and industry to give an update on current knowledge and expertise of various aspects of lipid-based oral dosage forms. The 13 chapters of this volume cover a broad spectrum of topics ranging from a detailed review of currently marketed lipid-based oral products to more specialized things like design and development of supersaturatable self-emulsifying DDS for enhancing the GI absorption.

As the book is not only meant for experts in the field it contains a lot of information especially valuable for the beginner e.g. chapter 2 summarizing lipid-based excipients which might be used for oral drug delivery.

Chapters 3 and 4 make the reader familiar with the challenges which are faced when a lipid-based formulation shall be transferred into a hard-capsule or a soft-capsule format.

The following three chapters summarize the main types of oral lipid-based formulations namely liquid SMEDDS, lipid-based isotropic solutions, and lipid-based self-emulsifying solid dispersions.

Strategies for a rational formulation design are given under the head-line: oral lipid-based formulations: using preclinical data to dictate formulation strategies for poorly water-soluble drugs. Physiological processes, design of in vitro release studies, and lipolysis modelling for exploring IVIVIC relationships are the keywords for the three chapters which deal with the biopharmaceutical in vitro and in vivo behaviour of oral lipid-based formulations.

Last but not least some case studies for the rational development of self-emulsifying formulations are a good guide from theory to practice.

This book is the first one dealing exclusively with this hot topic. With his selection of topics and authors, the editor put a strong emphasis on the practical aspects. However, it is more than just a cooking book because it teaches strategies based on a theoretical background without boring the reader with lengthy approaches from the ebony tower. It is also very positive that all chapters include sufficiently long reference lists allowing the reader to follow the scientific literature. All in all, this book is a very good starting point to enter into the field of oral lipid-based formulations. It can be recommended to anyone involved in the formulation development of poorly water-soluble drugs in academy as well as in the pharmaceutical industry.

R. Daniels
Pharmaceutical Technology,
University of Tübingen,
Tübingen, Germany
Tel.: + 49 7071 2972462; fax: +49 7071 295531.
E-mail address: rolf.daniels@uni-tuebingen.de

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