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Book review

Targeted and Controlled Drug Delivery: Novel Carrier Systems

S.P. Vyas, R.K. Khar, CBS Publishers, New Delhi, 2002, ISBN 81-239-0799-0

The pace of developments in drug delivery and targeting poses challenges for authors intent on covering the field but here is a recently published textbook which deserves attention. Many multi-authored monographs have been published aimed at a postgraduate audience, but few attempt to cover the whole range of targeted and controlled drug delivery for a wider audience, advanced undergraduate as well as postgraduate pharmaceutical scientists.

This book of nearly 600 pages, co-authored by Professor Vyas and Professor Khar, is much needed. Having but two authors it has a cohesion that poly-authored texts frequently do not possess. Of course no one textbook can indeed cover the latest nuances and advances in research in the area, but this is a very current exposition of the field. It is divided into three main sections: first, general considerations and biochemical concepts; second, carrier concepts in drug delivery; and third, site specific drug delivery. Its comprehensive index alone indicates the shear range of topics covered in a logical but not over-detailed fashion. For example, in the chapter which is an intro-

duction to parenteral drug delivery are discussed (and this is not an exhaustive list) liposomes, niosomes, nanoparticles and microspheres, solid lipid and hydrogel nanoparticles, nanocrystals and nanosuspensions, specialised emulsions, resealed erythrocytes, supramolecular biovectors, polymeric micelles and dendrimers. Other chapters show the same range and detail. Each of the systems mentioned above are given more extensive coverage—sometimes complete chapters—in later sections of the book. Nearly all the topics randomly searched for were found.

The book is illustrated with clear diagrams and photomicrographs where relevant. It is printed and published in India to a high standard not always associated with such provenance. Occasionally the English is not as polished as it might be, but the authors are to be congratulated in writing such a comprehensive but readable and useful textbook, which will be valuable especially in postgraduate or advanced undergraduate programmes and for those who wish to have a coherent overview of targeted and controlled delivery in one volume.

A.T. Florence
*The School of Pharmacy
University of London
London WC1N 1AX, UK*