

Endothelin Receptors. From the Gene to the Human. Edited by Robert R. Ruffolo, Jr. CRC Press Inc., Boca Raton, FL. 1995. 285 pp. 16 × 24 cm. ISBN 0-8493-5938-4. \$169.95.

Since the discovery of the potent vasoconstrictor endothelin in 1988, considerable research interest has been generated in both academic and industrial laboratories studying cardiovascular disease. This work attempts to review the massive literature (over 5000 references to date) that has been generated by researchers relating to the molecular biology, biochemistry, medicinal chemistry, and pharmacology of endothelin. In general, the authors perform an admirable job of covering the literature through 1994.

This book is an addition to the series *Pharmacology and Toxicology: Basic and Clinical Aspects*, which was edited by Manfred A. Hollinger. Consisting of eight chapters, each one is contributed by experts in the field, all of whom are researchers from SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals. The chapters include (1) Introduction: Endothelin Receptors, (2) Endothelin Receptor Subclassification, (3) Molecular Biology of Endothelin Receptors, (4) Signal Transduction Process Involved in Endothelin-Mediated Responses, (5) Endothelin Receptor Antagonists, (6) Functions Mediated by Peripheral Endothelin Receptors, (7) Endothelin in the Central Nervous System, and (8) The Role of Endothelin in Human Disease: Implications and Potential Therapeutic Intervention. The text is followed by a complete and very useful index.

Most of the chapters are quite comprehensive and well referenced. In fact, chapter 6 contains over 600 literature citations. However, some of the chapters are less exhaustive in their breadth. For example, chapter 5 on endothelin receptor antagonists makes only a relatively cursory review of the prior literature, while a significant amount of the discussion is devoted to the development and structure–activity relationships (SAR) of a series of indanecarboxylic acid endothelin receptor antagonists. With this in mind, this book is still unique in comparison to previous works due to its broadness of scope by attempting to review the importance of endothelin from the molecular basis to the potential clinical applications. The authors are to be commended for their overall fine effort. Perhaps the most significant contribution of this book is found in chapter 8 in which the potential therapeutic utility of endothelin antagonists and ECE (endothelin-converting enzyme) inhibitors is addressed. This chapter represents one of the most comprehensive reviews of the therapeutic implications for endothelin that has been published to date.

This book is recommended as an addition to the libraries of institutions and individual researchers actively studying the physiological and/or pathophysiological role of endothelin. However, the relatively high cost of this book will probably limit its broader distribution.

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Antibiotics. A Multidisciplinary Approach. By Giancarlo Lancini, Francesco Parenti, and Gian Gualberto Gallo. Plenum Press, New York. 1995. ix + 278 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-306-44924-2. \$59.50.

The book *Antibiotics. A Multidisciplinary Approach* is the English translation of an Italian edition, published in 1993, which itself was a revised and updated version of a book the authors first published in 1977. The book is divided into 10 chapters, starting with a general overview of antibiotics (chapter 1) and moving onto the activity of antibiotics (chapter 2), mechanism of action of antibiotics (chapter 3), and resistance of microorganisms to antibiotics (chapter 4). Chapter 5, the longest chapter (66 pages) in the book, deals with structure–activity relationships (SAR) of the different classes of antibiotics, and chapter 6 provides a general overview of the biosynthesis and genetics of antibiotic production. Chapter 7, which deals with the discovery and development of new antibiotics, outlines the challenges, strategic approaches, and logistical considerations encountered in the development of a new drug. Chapter 8 briefly discusses the basic therapeutic concepts and principles of antibiotic use, and chapter 9 concludes with a short discussion of antibiotics and producer organisms. Finally, chapter 10 is devoted to a list of references for further reading.

This book, which is clearly written and well organized, provides a broad and balanced overview of the antibiotics field, ranging from the molecular biology and biosynthesis of antibiotics to the SAR and industrial development of these agents. Noticeably lacking, however, were any references within the chapters, although presumably further information could be obtained by referring to chapter 10 which is devoted to references for further reading. Chapter 5, which reviews the SAR of antibiotics, will be of particular interest to medicinal chemists, although the information is already somewhat dated due to the rapid advances in this field. This book will be of interest and value both to those individuals actively involved in the anti-infective area as well as to novices wanting to learn more about antibiotics and should be a welcome addition to institutional and personal libraries alike.

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Annual Reports in Medicinal Chemistry. Volume 30. Editor-in-Chief: James A. Bristol. Academic Press, Inc., San Diego, CA. 1995. xi + 387 pp. 17 × 25 cm. ISBN 0-12-040530-X. \$70.00 (pbk).

Volume 30 retains the well-known format of its predecessors. Accordingly, as in Volume 29, it is divided into seven sections: (I) Central Nervous System Diseases, (II) Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Diseases, (III) Cancer and Infectious Diseases, (IV) Immunology, Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, (V) Topics in Biology, (VI) Topics in Drug Design and Discovery, and (VII) Trends and Perspectives. Each section is edited by an