

Book Reviews

Emerging Drugs. The Prospect for Improved Medicines. Annual Executive Briefing. Volume Two. 1997. Edited by William C. Bowman, J. Desmond Fitzgerald, and John B. Taylor. Ashley Publications Ltd, London. 1997. x + 415 pp. 20.5 × 24 cm. ISSN 1361-9195. \$640.00; \$385.00 (pbk).

This is the second volume of *Emerging Drugs*; it highlights selected topics of current interest for the development of potential new drug products. A total of 17 chapters written by expert scientists review current "excitements" in pharmaceutical research and development. Topics reviewed relate to obesity, restenosis, antiplatelet drugs, squalene synthase inhibitors, β -adrenoceptor antagonists in the treatment of congestive heart failure, HIV protease inhibitors, non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors in the treatment of HIV virus infection, tumor-induced angiogenesis as a target for drug therapy, antifolate-based thymidylate synthase inhibitors, matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor drugs, interleukin-2 combined with other treatment modalities, type 4 phosphodiesterase inhibitors in the treatment of inflammatory disease, targeted biological agents in rheumatoid arthritis, new retinoids for the treatment of dermatological diseases, therapies for *Helicobacter pylori*, drugs for tropical diseases, and new antiepileptic drugs. Each chapter concisely summarizes eight considerations related to the topic, i.e. background to introduce the topic, existing treatments, a wide-ranging discussion of the medical need for alternative or improved treatment, a summary and analysis of com-

pounds that are currently being developed, scientific concepts, definition of current market size, potential development issues, and a final analysis which assesses the topic in terms of biological, chemical, and clinical novelty. The reviews are up-to-date with clearly presented chemical structures and conclude with a comprehensive bibliography with references through 1996. The volume concludes with a detailed list of abbreviations and indexes that cite therapeutic areas and companies. The company index is particularly informative as it lists the reviewed areas of research being investigated by the various companies.

Although it is clearly not possible to cover all areas of current interest in the development of new drug products, *Emerging Drugs* provides definitive reviews and updates of the year's most rapidly advancing drug classes and therapeutic areas. The volume will be of greatest interest as a perspective and reference source for pharmaceutical research and development decision makers; it may be particularly useful in their strategic planning. Other pharmaceutical scientists will benefit from specific chapters and overall persuasion. Pharmaceutical planners and managers will benefit from this volume. Institutional library access is recommended for others concerned with the development of new drug products.

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