

Book Reviews

Nuclear Receptors as Drug Targets. Edited by Eckhard Ottow and Hilmar Weinmann. Wiley/VCH, Weinheim, Germany. 2008. xxiv + 498 pp. 17.5 × 25 cm. ISBN 978-3-527-31872-8. \$149.00.

Nuclear receptors comprise a large family of biological binding sites embedded within the cell interior, distinctly different in location and function from cell surface receptors. Capable of binding directly to DNA, they have also been classified as transcription factors and they can regulate gene expression when an appropriate ligand docks at the nuclear receptor binding site. Influencing or controlling such diverse cell functions as homeostasis, metabolism, and reproduction, nuclear receptors have been exploited by pharma for decades as very attractive “drugable” biological entities.

Containing 16 chapters and representing the product of active, global researchers in the area, this book provides a timely review of nuclear receptors as opportune drug targets. With such a diverse subject it is sometimes difficult to create a unified text, but editors Ottow and Weinmann have certainly succeeded in the task. After a Forward by the editors, the book continues with Chapter 1 by them as well, providing a historical drug discovery perspective of this intriguing receptor class. Chapter 2 addresses the still incompletely understood field of nuclear receptor–cofactor interaction and describes how this relationship might be leveraged into providing new objectives for selective modulators. Chapters 3–5 discuss the estrogen receptor, including its subtypes, study tools, and their role(s) as therapeutic breast cancer targets. The progesterone receptor is the subject of Chapters 6 and 7 with contributors giving both a biology overview as well as outlining the clinical relevance of proges-

terone receptor antagonists. Chapter 8 deals with nonsteroidal tissue-selective androgen receptor modulators that the authors have organized in a very logical and effective fashion: a comprehensive listing of the various ligands for this receptor class by the technical contributions of each pharmaceutical company active in the field.

A number of other specialized single topic chapters round out the volume, including a discussion of vitamin D receptors (Chapter 10) and the role that their agonists play in clinical anti-inflammatory therapy. It also describes the principles of vitamin D action and efforts to discover new receptor ligands. Retinoids and their receptors are the subject of Chapter 12, covering the use of these compounds in dermatology and oncology. The final chapter outlines the recently emerging field of targeted libraries for nuclear receptors, utilizing both chemoinformatics and combinatorial chemistry. The volume contains a complete and helpful subject index.

With increasing pharmaceutical importance attributed to this area, the text is a welcome review of the current field. Considering that it is a multiauthor work, the quality of the text is good with very readable chapters and many useful original literature references. The book will clearly be valuable for both academic and industrial groups engaged in drug discovery.

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Books of Interest

Essentials of Pharmaceutical Chemistry. Third Edition. By Donald Cairns. Pharmaceutical Press, Grayslake, IL. 2008. xvi + 280 pp. 15 × 23 cm. ISBN 978-0-85369-795-9 (Paperback). \$45.00.

Essentials of Chemical Biology. Structure and Dynamics of Biological Macromolecules. By Andrew Miller and Julian Tanner. Wiley, Hoboken, NJ. 2008. xvi + 573 pp. 19 × 21.5 cm. ISBN 0470845317 (Paperback). \$75.00.

Handbook of Pharmaceutical Salts. Properties, Selection, and Use. Edited by P. Heinrich Stahl and Camille G. Wermuth. Wiley/VCH, Weinheim, Germany. 2008. xiv + 324 pp. 17 × 24 cm. ISBN 13 978-3-9096390-458-1 (Paperback). \$129.00.

Gene Profiles in Drug Design. Edited by Brett A. Lidbury and Suresh Mahalingam. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL. 2008. xii + 147 pp. 16 × 24 cm. ISBN 9780849337338. \$146.95.

Drug Bioavailability. Second Edition. Edited by Han van de Waterbeemd and Bernard Testa. Wiley/VCH, Weinheim, Germany. 2009. xxv + 624 pp. 17.5 × 25 cm. ISBN 33527320512. \$230.00.

Genomics in Drug Discovery and Development. By Dimitri Semizarov and Eric Blomme. Wiley, Hoboken, NJ. 2008. xv + 457 pp. 16 × 24 cm. ISBN 0470096047. \$115.00.

Toxicogenomics. A Powerful Tool for Toxicity Assessment. Edited by Saura C. Sahu. Wiley, Hoboken, NJ. 2008. xvii + 409 pp. 17 × 25 cm. ISBN 0470518235. \$190.00.

Nuclear Receptors in Drug Metabolism. Edited by Wen Xie. Wiley, Hoboken, NJ. 2008. xxii + 330 pp. 16 × 24.5 cm. ISBN 0470086793. \$100.00.

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