

Book Review

Handbook of Pharmaceutical Excipients, 5th edition, R. C. Rowe, P. J. Sheskey, and S. C. Owen, editors, Pharmaceutical Press, 2005, Hardback, 928, 0853696187

The formulation, development, and manufacturing of drug-delivery systems relies heavily on the use of excipients to aid in processing, stability, and bioavailability. A detailed knowledge of various physical and chemical properties of excipients is extremely important to the pharmaceutical formulation scientist in the development of new drug products. The *Handbook of Pharmaceutical Excipients* is a comprehensive reference containing physical, chemical, regulatory, and safety information for a number of pharmaceutical excipients.

The fifth edition of the text contains 300 excipient monographs compiled by 120 international experts. Previous monographs have been reviewed and revised as editors have sought to publish more data from primary sources. Fifty new monographs appear in this edition, with topics that include hydroxypropyl starch, hypromellose acetate succinate, inulin, pectin, and sulfobutylether β -cyclodextrin.

As with previous editions, the text is arranged in alphabetical order, making it easy to locate desired information. Each monograph contains the chemical, nonproprietary and trade names of the excipient. The empirical formulas, molecular weights, and chemical

structures follow. The Functionality Category section lists the general function(s) of the excipient, and the Applications in Pharmaceutical Formulation or Technology section provides a detailed description of various applications of the excipient. Compendial standards for the excipient from the British, European, Japanese, and United States Pharmacopeias are also provided. The next section of each monograph contains information and data related to its physical and chemical properties, such as a solubility, density, particle size, morphology, melting and boiling points, compression characteristics, moisture content, and hygroscopicity. Source to source variations in these properties are highlighted. Sections on Stability, Incompatibility, Safety, Handling Precautions, and Regulatory Status are also included. In addition, specific and general references are presented.

The text is extensively cross-referenced and indexed. A Suppliers Directory (Appendix I) lists suppliers in various regions of the world for given excipients and also provides contact information for these companies. The 5th edition of the *Handbook of Pharmaceutical Excipients* is an updated, comprehensive reference that is essential to anyone involved in the development, production, and regulation of the pharmaceutical industry.

Linda A. Felton
College of Pharmacy, University of New Mexico

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