

## Book review

### **Inhalation Delivery of Therapeutic Peptides and Proteins**

A.L. Adjei, P.K. Gupta (Eds.)

Illustrated, Marcel Dekker, New York, 952 pp., ISBN: 0-8247-9780-9 \$225.00

This book provides a comprehensive, indeed exhaustive, overview of the factors involved in delivering proteins and peptides to the airways, for both local and systemic activity. Twenty seven chapters are collected together into sections, covering the physiology of the human respiratory tract, formulation factors relating to aerosol delivery, case studies of protein and peptide delivery for local and systemic activity, gene therapy, novel technologies for pulmonary delivery and product development. A final section summarises important relevant patents. Each section has its own introduction, which summarises the subsequent chapters, drawing together common threads and attempting to put them into some kind of context. The case studies make particularly interesting reading, as they highlight many of the barriers and problems encountered in this rapidly developing field, and how they are being overcome. The chapters are up to date, extensively

referenced and of a uniformly high standard. It is to the credit of the editors that, such a large, multi-authored collection has coherence as a book, with minimal needless repetition. Any criticisms of the book are minor. There are few obvious errors, although the three tables detailing the properties of CFC and non-CFC propellants contain a number of inconsistencies. I also cannot believe that any book, even one as good as this, merits an introduction, preface and no less than three forewords.

This book is the second part of a trilogy concerning the delivery of pharmacological agents to the airways. I personally, have frequent recourse to the first in the series: *Inhalation Aerosols: Physical and Biological Basis for Therapy*, edited by A.J. Hickey. I anticipate that this book will prove to be an equally valuable resource for all those with an interest in this exciting and rapidly expanding area of research.

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