

Book review

***Particle–Particle Adhesion in Pharmaceutical Powder Handling*, Fridrun Podczeck, Imperial College Press, 1998. ISBN 1-86094-112-5**

Fridrun Podczeck's book brings together the several theoretical domains of particle–particle adhesion phenomena and related issues of physical properties of solid surfaces generally found in disparate sources of literature — particle physics, engineering, powder mechanics — in a single text. The complex fundamental relationships and models describing particle–particle adhesion are reviewed comprehensively, and a short overview of friction theory is provided.

These principles are then discussed as they relate to real powder handling and processing situations, especially those of pharmaceutical importance such as powder flow, mixing, agglomeration and tableting. A final chapter considers the range of experimental techniques which are available to assess particle adhesion and friction and powder fracture mechanics.

This comprehensive text aimed at linking theory with appreciation of practical issues and problem solving in powder science succeeds to a degree, with results perhaps constrained by the magnitude of real examples demonstrating the predictive capacity of the principles. It is hoped the text will encourage further application of these forward looking and exciting opportunities. Whilst the odd lapses in literature reference format and limitations of legends in figures are occasionally irritating, the book will appeal to scientists, researchers and practitioners and usefully find its place in the reference libraries of academic and industrial centres concerned with moving knowledge forward in the powder handling and processing industries.

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