

Book review

**Drugs in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Volume 86,
Pharmaceutical Project Management**
Edited by Tony Kennedy. ISBN 0-8247-0111-9

A very useful addition to the series, *Pharmaceutical Project Management* provides useful insight to the value of properly managed research and development projects—targeting, planning, developing and exploiting their potential to the full. Attaining a go/no go decision in the most time/cost efficient manner is an essential feature in an environment where the attrition rate is highest in the early stages. As with all multi-author books there is overlap between chapters but the messages given are fairly consistent. The chapters on Strategic Project Management and the chapter on Managing an International Project Team fully discuss the criteria for creating and refining the Target Product Profile and for choosing the ‘right’ team leaders and team members. There is a telling review in the chapter on Implementation of Project Management which proposes that an international project should be managed by a high powered, highly visionary project leader supported by a project manager.

Project management has come a long way from the project teams of the sixties and seventies, which were little more than an information briefing forum for senior management to the

sophisticated empowered teams that were appearing in the early nineties—a trend that must be continued to meet the challenges the industry is facing today.

The essential needs for transparency of the process and clear definition of the respective roles and responsibilities of project staff with respect to line managers is well handled throughout the book as are interactions with contract research organisations and in joint ventures but there is more to Quality Assurance than having SOPs.

A glossary of terminology and a list of abbreviations would have benefited all readers as well as exerting a discipline to consistency of usage throughout the book.

I would recommend this book as prescribed reading for all new members of project teams in the pharmaceutical industry. It also provides an excellent source of food for thought for existing team members, senior management and individuals seeking an insight to the development process.

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