

Book review

Transport Processes in Pharmaceutical Systems

Edited by Amidon, Lee and Topp, Marcel Dekker, New York. ISBN: 0-8247-6610-5

Transport Processes in Pharmaceutical Systems is a useful text in that the diverse subject of transport phenomena is not only handled in a fairly basic manner, but focuses the reader on a number of applications which are of great importance within the pharmaceutical sciences.

The book is divided into four sections with the first devoted to an introduction to transport processes. Even in this section there is a commitment to relating the basic science to pharmaceutical issues such as pharmacokinetics, experimental methods for diffusion coefficient determination and dissolution of pharmaceuticals. The second section deals with biological subjects and here the authors have become selective in terms of the subjects chosen as representative of biological transport process. With the exception of contributions on ocular epithelial barriers and passive transport in cell culture monolayers the remaining

examples all relate to oral drug absorption. Polymers are the subject of the third section and the five contributions provide a reasonably comprehensive coverage of the subject. The final section has but two chapters which deal with heat and mass transport in freeze drying and hygroscopicity.

My overall impression of the book is that it is a text more appropriate for postgraduate students than the pharmaceutical undergraduate population; many of whom would have difficulties with some of the mathematical concepts. The text will not I feel find its way onto many personal bookshelves, although it is worthy of a place in any pharmaceutical library collection.

Ian Kellaway
*Department of Pharmaceutics,
School of Pharmacy,
University of London,
London WC1N 1AX,
UK*