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Book review

**Emulsions and Emulsion Stability, second ed. J. Sjöblom (Ed.). CRC Press (2006). ISBN: 0-8247-2695-2**

This book is a revised and expanded version of the first edition. It is a veritable cornucopia for emulsion technologists, certainly not a standard text on the subject but one full of interesting chapters by experts from a wide variety of backgrounds, in industry and academia. It will be valuable to those working in the pharmaceutical sciences, principally because of its strong theoretical base.

The book's style is set by the opening chapter of some 106 pages by Dukhin, Sjöblom and Sæther on an experimental and theoretical approach to the dynamic behaviour of emulsions. Spontaneous emulsification, a fascinating aspect of the science and of interest in pharmacy, is the subject of the second chapter. Platikanov and Exerowa, experts in thin surfactant film behaviour, contribute a chapter of thin films, the behaviour of which determine the stability of droplets of emulsions at close approach. Their focus is on black wow films most relevant in understanding oil-in-water emulsions.

One chapter addresses the topic of phase inversion, one with an intriguing section on "How to retrieve information" especially in relation to the sparse literature on phase inversion: a little history of the topic is given there and how to detect the trails, valuable for researchers new to the area. Phase inversion as a tool for optimising systems, emulsions as templates for solid foams, reactions in emulsions, characterisation of emulsions by ultrasound and NMR, oil spills, environmental emulsions and bitumen emulsions are then discussed in separate chapters. There follow several contributions which are of more relevance to the oil industry than to pharmacy, but, nevertheless, all discuss interesting concepts. We all should read outside the strict defines of our disciplines and biases to find analogies and fresh ways of looking at subjects. There is a particularly interesting chapter, for example, on electro-coalescence of emulsions, which should provide ideas for the behaviour of droplets in novel pharmaceutical devices.

The book is extensively referenced and should be a port of call for postgraduates and researchers working with two-phase systems. Sometimes the rather poor reproduction of photographs lets the book down, but it would be hard otherwise to criticise this volume.

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