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Book review

Nanoparticulate Drug Delivery Systems, D. Thassu, M. Deleers, Y. Pathak (Eds.). Informa Healthcare, New York (2007). 351 pp., ISBN: 0-8493-9073-7

There is no escaping books on nanotechnology nor, in the field of pharmacy and medicine, volumes on nanoparticle-based drug delivery systems. Torchilin's *Nanoparticulates as Drug Carriers* was published by Imperial College Press in 2006, so should we welcome another so soon after? This present offering, which is volume 166 in the redoubtable Drugs in the Pharmaceutical Sciences series has 21 chapters with a total of 42 authors. There is virtually no overlap of contributors between the two texts, so each chapter brings a different perspective. The book begins with an overview by the three editors and continues with chapters on nanosuspensions for parenteral delivery, polymer nanoparticle preparation, lipid based systems and another on lipid nanoparticles (SLNs and NLCs) and biological requirements for nanotherapeutic applications. These mostly cover known ground but always with a particular emphasis by the authors. Topics which do not so regularly appear on my desk are included in chapters on nanofiber-based systems and on the manufacture of multi-component nano- and micro-particles by the aerosol flow reactor method. CNS delivery is tackled as is gene delivery, ocular applications of nanosystems, the treatment of restenosis, nanoparticle adjuvants and vaccine vectors and transdermal uses. There are also comprehensive chapters on nanocrystals and nano-engineering of delivery systems.

Given the rapid growth of nanotechnology and of pharmaceutical and biomedical nanotechnology in particular we must welcome each addition to the literature. No one really reads a comprehensive volume like this from beginning to end. We all seek out chapters which are new and different editors negotiate a different palette from which readers can choose. This is an up-to-date text which should find its rightful place on the shelves of postgraduates and more senior scientists in the field. It would be of special value to those in other disciplines who have seen the possibilities of nanomedicine but who have not always appreciated the depth of knowledge that already exists, or the complexity of system-organism interactions.

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