

BOOK REVIEW

RADIOCHEMICALS IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Critical Reports on Applied Chemistry Volume 24

Edited by E A Evans and K G Oldham

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This highly readable and compact volume concentrates on three topics which are the subject of considerable research at the present time, namely drugs, receptors and cancer.

After a brief introductory chapter by the editors, the following chapter by Dr Hawkins concerns itself with the role of radiolabelled compounds in preclinical drug development. Excretion studies, tissue distribution, plasma kinetics and the investigation of metabolites are treated in some detail as such studies are essential for acquiring a knowledge of the safety of new drugs.

The effectiveness of drugs owes a great deal to their mode of interaction with receptors (proteins). These aspects together with an understanding of the kinetics of binding are covered in a very satisfactory manner in two chapters by Dr Strange and Dr Schulster.

The final chapter discusses the use of radiochemicals and radioisotopes in cancer research and clinical oncology, where significant advances are currently being made.

The editors are to be congratulated on bringing together such a strong team of authors, the end result being a splendidly produced and informative volume which deserves a wide readership.

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