

Book Reviews

Anthracycline Antibiotics: New Analogues, Methods of Delivery, and Mechanisms of Action. Edited by W. Priebe. American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C. 1995. xi + 332 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-1812-3040-4. \$99.95.

This symposium volume has met the goal of the early 1993 symposium from which this volume is extracted and, in the words of the editor in his preface, accurately depicts the snapshot of "...researchers who are involved in the direct design and synthesis of new drugs [anthracyclines] with researchers who are investigating biochemical processes and mechanisms of action".

This 19 chapter book broadly, but superficially, covers most relevant aspects of anthracycline drug development, from its two chapters on structure-activity relationships (SAR), five chapters on chemistry and novel analogs, one chapter on prodrugs, five chapters on the mechanism of action, four chapters on cardiotoxicity, and two chapters on permeability and resistance. The authors are primarily academic, with a few governmental labs represented, but the text suffers from a balance of industrial researcher participants.

Most chapters are well written, with enough detail for a beginner to learn and understand this area of research, but not with enough thoroughness to update researchers in this field of research (the exception being the editor's own chapter which is very thorough). There is a good balance of chemistry and biology, with the possible exception of four chapters on therapeutic index and cardiotoxicity (as one or two chapters would have been more than adequate).

All of the major issues are dealt with in this volume, including chemistry (and SAR), different viewpoints on mechanism-of-action, two excellent reviews on permeation of the anthracyclines (Garnier-Suillerot *et al.* and Mehta and Burke), and a good overview of the involvement of DNA topoisomerases in anthracycline activity (Pommier). This symposium volume is moderately priced, and well worth the investment for those researchers or clinicians in the anthracycline field or in the role of using anthracyclines for therapy.

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