

Book Reviews

Advances in Drug Delivery Systems, 6. Edited by James M. Anderson, Sung Wan Kim, Jindrich Kopecek, and Kristine Knutson. Elsevier, New York. 1994. xii + 360 pp. 19.5 × 26.5 cm. ISBN 0-444-82027-2. \$200.00.

This book is a compilation of the proceedings of the Sixth International Symposium on Recent Advances in Drug Delivery Systems, held in Salt Lake City, UT, February 21–24, 1993, which was attended by over 300 scientists. It was published as a special issue of the *Journal of Controlled Release*, Volume 28, Issues 1–3. This volume contains sections on novel drug delivery systems, peptide and protein delivery, targeting and cellular recognition in drug delivery, and drug delivery to the brain, as well as poster sessions on transmembrane transport, oral and parenteral delivery, biopharmaceutics, novel therapeutic delivery systems, and liposome and microsphere transport and delivery.

Each of the major sections of the book consists of 5–10 papers on some aspect of that section, presented by a truly international group of experts in drug delivery systems. The papers cover virtually every route of drug delivery utilizing traditional small molecule drugs, proteins, peptides, and monoclonal antibodies. Each paper is fully documented with a complete bibliography, as are many of the poster presentations. In addition, the book contains both an author index and a subject index.

The book will be especially useful for pharmaceutical scientists, polymer chemists, bioengineers, pharmacologists, and physicians working in the general area of drug delivery or who have a difficult molecule to deliver for a therapeutic goal.

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Alkaloids: Chemical and Biological Perspectives. Volume 9. Edited by S. W. Pelletier. Pergamon Press, Oxford. U.K. 1995. xv + 286 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-08-042089-3. \$125.00.

The chapters in this book, which is dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. Richard H. F. Manske, illustrate the breadth and vitality of current research on alkaloids. The first chapter is by Drs. Monroe E. Wall and M. C. Wani, the discoverers of taxol, and is a concise review of the isolation and chemical properties of this therapeutically important compound. Since the chapter was written, the two total syntheses by Nicolaou and Holton have been completed, and the review emphasizes mostly the aspects of procurement and biological activity of taxol.

Chapter 2, by Drs. Linda Hamaker and James Cook, covers the synthesis of macroline-related indole alkaloids. The Cook group has led the effort in total synthesis in this field and developed multigram-yielding sequences that allow for detailed physiological evaluation of these compounds. Chapter 3, by Drs. A. S. Chawla and Vijay S. Kapoor, is a concise, up-to-date treatment of *Erythrina* alkaloids, with emphasis on synthetic approaches.

The chemistry of the pyrrolizidine alkaloids has been studied and reviewed repeatedly over the years. Their genesis in plants and their role in chemical ecology constitute a newer and fascinating story which is ably told by Professor Thomas Hartmann and Dr. L. Witte. Equally representative of recent advances in alkaloid studies is the chapter on indole alkaloids from cell cultures of *Aspidosperma quebracho-blanco*, by Drs. P. Obitz, J. Stöckigt, L. A. Mendonza, N. Aimi, and S.-i. Sakai. Finally the fumonisins, a series of toxic polyketide alkaloids from *Fusarium* species, are reviewed by Drs. Richard Powell and Ronald Plattner. Analytical, structural, and biological studies of these compounds are emphasized.

These chapters offer the reader well-written and concise reviews of several fields of great current interest in alkaloid chemistry. They also show the directions in which alkaloid studies are moving, which adds to the intrinsic value of the book.

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