

## Book Reviews

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**Supramolecular Chemistry of Anions.** Edited by Antonio Bianchi, Kristin Bowman-James, and Enrique Garcia-Espana. Wiley-VCH, New York, NY. 1997. xiv + 461 pp. ISBN 0-471-18622-8. \$79.95.

This very timely volume is a must for all practitioners in the areas of coordination chemistry, separations science, and ion sensors. For the former, this book will reveal the missing half of coordination chemistry. For the latter two, it will serve as a treasure-trove of valuable facts and ideas. The text consists of 11 chapters that cover the theoretical and physical principles of anion binding by complex macrocycles as well as simpler ion-pairing, electrochemical detection of such complexes, their structural chemistry, the development of ion sensors and phase transfer catalysts and an overview of anion binding proteins. A concise background chapter that presents the history of the field is also included. The chapters discussing the factors that underpin key thermodynamic and kinetic data are particularly welcome, as is the detailed compilation of much useful technical information that extends the book from a pedagogical text to a concise reference manual. Most other chapters deal with the large literature of macrocycles designed to bind anions of biomedical or environmental significance and develop the use of such molecules in separation science and as ion sensors. One chapter focuses on anion binding proteins, although other biological topics are covered as subtopics throughout the text. Each chapter is clearly written by experts in the field, and the literature coverage is, with a few exceptions, fairly complete with coverage extending through 1994/95. Indexing is adequate.

The price of the text is most reasonable and should attract a healthy readership among coordination and bioinorganic chemists and scientists in the fields of separations and sensor development. As stated previously, the text is indeed timely and readable and provides comprehensive and thought-provoking coverage of an important and rapidly developing area of research.

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**Emerging Therapeutic Targets. Volume 1.** Edited by R. Anand, P. Smith, and P. Warne. Ashley Publications Ltd., London. 1997, ix + 281 pp. 21 × 29.5 cm. ISSN 1460-0412. \$865.00.

The introduction into medicine of antibiotics, steroids, and drugs for the treatment of mental illness represents three examples of whole new eras in therapy that resulted from industrial-academic collaborations. Today, the formation of industrial-academic research

alliances as well as R&D partnerships between industrial organizations continues to be of growing importance as a strategy for pharmaceutical discovery and development. Given the extraordinary pace of current research in biotechnology and the large number of participants, the work of identifying and introducing prospective partners is difficult. The academic and industrial technology licensing officers who are the "marriage brokers" in this effort have had to rely on personal contacts, large meetings, and published research articles to be alerted to new opportunities—a relatively inefficient process. Thus, the introduction of a new periodical to aid in this task is very welcome.

In its first volume, this publication profiles 65 opportunities in 6 broad disease categories: antiinflammatory, antiinfective, CNS, cardiovascular, oncologic, endocrine and metabolic, and a miscellaneous group. Each presentation begins with a listing of the target, mechanism, and proposed therapeutic intervention. After providing information concerning the site of the study, a discussion of the background and goals of the project is undertaken, followed by an indication of the type of partner and funding level sought. The volume concludes with an index classified by individual diseases.

According to the publishers, the presented information was gathered by soliciting contributions from academic research groups worldwide and was reviewed by the editors. The laboratory sites are roughly equally divided between the UK, the US, and the rest of Europe and include only a few in the remainder of the world. Volume 2 will appear in 1998 as two issues and, by contrast to the present volume, will be available in fully searchable electronic format.

As one who is currently retained as a technology scout for a major pharmaceutical company, I found this publication to be a useful source of information pertinent to partnering. Its price appears high, but is actually a good value in comparison to the cost of attendance at a major partnering meeting. Acquisition of this periodical should be considered by commercial partners seeking innovative drug discovery research opportunities.

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**Highly Selective Neurotoxins. Basic and Clinical Applications.** Edited by R. M. Kostrzewa. Humana Press, Towota, NJ. 1998. xii + 404 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-89603-465-8. \$125.00.

This book is a collection, in 15 chapters, of information concerning the most popular and useful neurotoxins. There is an outstanding cast of chapter authors. The work contains extensive discussion of 6-hydroxydopam-