

helpful, and supervisors will find that a "lab copy" will pay for itself in short-order.

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Emerging Drugs. The Prospect for Improved Medicines. Annual Executive Briefing. Volume 3.

Edited by W. C. Bowman, J. D. Fitzgerald, and J. B. Taylor. Ashley Publications Ltd., London. 1998. vi + 397 pp. 21 x 29.54 cm. ISSN 1361-9195. \$690.00.

Volume 3 of this series consists of 25 well-written reviews concentrated in the cardiovascular and cancer areas but including other topics such as pain, inflammation, therapeutic vaccines, and antisense oligonucleotides. Each chapter is written by well-qualified mostly industrial investigators actively engaged in the area under discussion. Each entry is between 12 and 25 pages long and contains the following sections: summary, background, medical need, therapeutic class review, current research goals, scientific rationale, competitive environment, potential development issues, editorial analysis, and bibliography. The articles are sufficiently in depth for a pharmaceutically literate reader to get a good sense of the importance of the particular field, the rationale and current status of the approaches being followed as revealed in the literature,

and some of the unique problems of developing a marketed drug in that area. The articles appear to be current with 1997 literature references. For those of us who have difficulty keeping the alphabet soup jargon straight, there is an extensive glossary. There is also a company index which references for each company those areas covered in this volume in which they may be active.

In summary, this volume consists of in-depth reviews of some active areas of research and development, targeting the future potential of a given hypothesis and the data describing its present status, with emphasis on compounds in the various stages of development. As indicated by the subtitle of the series, "Annual Executive Briefing", and its price, this series is not targeted specifically toward the individual laboratory investigator. As stated in the foreword to Volume One 1996, it could "provide a critical guide for those working in strategic marketing, licensing department and health-care planning". However, it could also serve to give researchers a broad picture of a research area and provide data to suggest how their project relates. I would recommend that pharmaceutical company libraries consider acquiring this book, not only for the use of executives but also for those involved in the research and development process.

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