

covering the breath of current HTS. It will serve as a standard text in a field which is rapidly changing from HTS to ultra HTS.

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Studies in Medicinal Chemistry, Vol. 1: Progress in Medicinal Chemistry. By M. Iqbal Choudhary, University of Karachi. Harwood Academic Publishers, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 1996. xiv + 390 pp. 17 × 24.5 cm. \$150.00. ISBN 3-7186-5795-3.

The first volume of a new series, *Studies in Medicinal Chemistry*, entitled *Progress In Medicinal Chemistry*, provides the reader with a collection of eight extensive reviews on topics of current research interest. Authored by knowledgeable scientists active in the areas reported, the topics selected reflect the diverse, multidisciplinary nature of modern medicinal chemistry research.

The first chapter, "Expanding the Role of Macrolide Compounds as Therapeutic Agents," discusses the chemistry and SAR of 14-membered and 16-membered macrolide antibiotics. "Lexitropsins: Design and Development of Sequence-Selective DNA Minor Groove-Binding Agents as New Chemotherapeutics" (Chapter 2) is an extensive review (428 references) of the chemistry and biology of this class of "information-reading" molecules. "Recent Trends in the Quinoline Field"

(Chapter 3) is an overview of the SAR of an important group of antibacterials. Chapter 4, "Low Molecular Weight Compounds for Boron Neutron Capture Therapy," describes a tumor radiation therapy technique. In Chapter 5, the importance of conformation of a drug at the moment of its interaction with its receptor is examined in "The Frozen Analog Approach in Medicinal Chemistry." A very brief (8 pages, 62 references), but timely, review of "The Bistratenes: Novel Tools to Study Cell Growth Regulation" examines the biological effects of a family of polyether marine toxins in Chapter 6. Chapter 7 reviews "Dextromethorphan, Carbetapentene and Analogs as Anticonvulsant and Neuroprotectant Agents." The final chapter overviews "Plasma Proteins as Drug Carriers for Hepatic and Renal Targeting."

A strength of this relatively expensive (\$150.00) volume is that it is well written, solidly referenced and adequately illustrated with appropriate figures and tables. While the selection of topics may not give the average reader new to medicinal chemistry a good glimpse at the most active research areas (always a debatable task), this book does highlight research of contemporary importance well. The insight provided in each chapter makes this review source a useful addition to individual, academic and industrial bookshelves.

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