

Book Review

Behavioural Models in Psychopharmacology: Theoretical, Industrial and Clinical Perspectives

Edited by Paul Willner

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xiii + 540 pages

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This is an unusual book of ambitious intent. There are many texts which have described the range of behavioural models in psychopharmacological research, but none has attempted to identify so clearly their use for different purposes relevant to academic, industrial and clinical practice. Thus basic scientists may use animal models to investigate basic brain function and the nature of mental disorders, colleagues in industry may be more concerned to develop new and improved therapies for mental illness, clinicians require reliable animal models to help them understand the nature of human brain dysfunction and to detect clinically useful drugs. The various interests have been coalesced in a commendable manner and the introductory chapter provides a first-class account of the theories of behavioural modelling. The rationale of modelling is concisely discussed and this most important of chapters could be read with benefit by all pharmacology students. The subsequent six chapters discuss the animal behavioural models of anxiety, depression, eating disorders, mania and schizophrenia, dementia, and drug abuse and dependence. Each chapter is comprehensive and provides a wealth of information. Whilst the format of the text provides for an ease of reading, the information is generally not for casual consumption. For example, the chapter on animal models of Alzheimer's disease provides in some ninety

pages a most authoritative and highly referenced account necessitating careful reading. In this and other chapters the accounts are immensely informative, the clinical perspective being most useful to the preclinical endeavours. The latter are reported in terms of the validity of animal models and this makes excellent sense scientifically and increasingly in terms of the ethics of experimentation. At a time when experimentation is being increasingly questioned, as emphasised by the editor, it is vital that the experimenters, by rigorous self-assessment, are quite clear that they are using the most appropriate models. All the chapters provide impressive evidence that animal modelling has and will continue to lead to important advances in an understanding and treatment of human illness. Each chapter is written within a common framework to identify the academic, industrial and clinical perspectives. This makes for unified text and a continuity of reading. In brief, the book provides the reader with an immense amount of information and can be thoroughly recommended for all those interested in brain function and dysfunction and drug treatment of psychiatric disorders.

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Definitive IUPAC Recommendations

The following definitive recommendations on nomenclature terminology, and symbolism have been published since January 1991:

1. Proposals for the description and measurement of carry-over effects in clinical chemistry. *Pure Appl. Chem.* (1991) 63: 301
2. Terminology in semiconductor electrochemistry and photo-electrochemical energy conversion. *Pure Appl. Chem.* (1991) 63: 569
3. Nomenclature, symbols, units and their usage in spectrochemical analysis - VIII. Nomenclature system for X-ray spectroscopy. *Pure Appl. Chem.* (1991) 63: 735
4. English-derived abbreviations for experimental techniques in surface science and chemical spectroscopy. *Pure Appl. Chem.* (1991) 63: 887
5. Nomenclature, symbols, definitions and measurements for electrified interfaces in aqueous dispersions of solids. *Pure Appl. Chem.* (1991) 63: 895
6. Manual on catalyst characterization. *Pure Appl. Chem.* (1991) 63: 1227
7. Nomenclature of derived quantities. *Pure Appl. Chem.* (1991) 63: 1307
8. Recommendations for nomenclature and symbolism for mass spectroscopy (including an appendix of terms used in vacuum technology). *Pure Appl. Chem.* (1991) 63: 1541
9. JCAMP:DX, a standard format for exchange of infrared spectra in computer readable form. *Pure Appl. Chem.* (1991) 63: 1781

Comments on these recommendations would be welcomed, addressed to the originating IUPAC Commission (for addresses see the appropriate issue of *Pure Appl. Chem.*), with copies to Dr Alan McNaught, Secretary, Royal Society of Chemistry Nomenclature Committee, Thomas Graham House, Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 4WF, UK.