

## Book Reviews

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**The Process of Drug Discovery and Development.** By Charles G. Smith. CRC Press, Inc., Boca Raton, FL. 1992. 150 pp. 16 × 24 cm. \$69.95.

This is the second book on drug development published by CRC Press in 2 years. The first one (2nd edition, Charles E. Hanmer, Editor, 1990) covered the whole process in 22 contributed well-referenced chapters, in 308 pages. The present volume represents the experience of the author, who for 32 years served as a research executive and consultant to several leading pharmaceutical manufacturers. There is an index but only a total of 13 references. The book will appeal to two types of readers: novices who want to see what the field is all about and R & D directors as well as front-office administrators in the industry who sometimes have little scientific and technical expertise but have to make far-reaching decisions as to what areas their company should be active in, and what it will cost. The readable, review-type text will be of value to such executives and provide them with a background for the discussions of the company's work with their technical personnel.

A short overview of methods of drug discovery and the many facets of drug development is followed immediately by chapters of interest to research supervisors: organizational formats, target and patent considerations, the demands of biochemical and biological screening, and the many studies required before an NDA is filed. These include toxicity, pathology, absorption, distribution, drug metabolism and excretion, pharmaceuticals, and the costly

clinical investigations. Biometrics, the impact of computer sciences, biotechnology, and a call for the need of animal experimentation round out the volume, with guidelines how to meet regulatory operations at the FDA and abroad.

We have become accustomed to scan the news on TV's soundbites. In a way, the format of this book reminds one of this procedure. The text touches briefly on all aspects of medicinal and pharmaceutical R & D without going into details. This will be a bonus for pharmaceutical managers and a pleasant nonstrenuous way for involved scientists to read on a Sunday afternoon how far we have come in this field.

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### Books of Interest

**Lipid Modification of Proteins. A Practical Approach.** Edited by N. M. Hooper and A. J. Turner. Oxford University Press, New York. 1992. xx + 290 pp. 15.5 × 23 cm. ISBN 0-19-963273-1. \$50.00 (Pbk).

**Molecular and Cellular Approaches to the Treatment of Neurological Disease. Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease. Volume 71.** Edited by Stephen G. Waxman. Raven Press, New York. 1992. xix + 393 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-88167-953-4. \$140.00.