

Book Reviews

Membrane Structure in Disease and Drug Therapy. Edited by Guido Zimmer. Marcel Dekker, New York. 2000. xxi + 530 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-8247-0361-8. \$195.00.

Cell membranes are extremely important components of the systems in which pharmaceutical agents must be effective, but they are not especially well understood. They lack the chemical homogeneity which we associate with drug molecules. The lipid:protein ratio in a cell membrane can range from 3:1 to 1:3, and the lipids themselves are quite heterogeneous. This book is intended to be a reference book on the interactions of drugs with both human and pathogen cell membranes, but it lacks a most critical component for such a book: a good, solid first chapter on the nature of the membrane in the absence of drug or disease.

The book covers a very broad range of topics, including antimicrobial peptides, oxidation of skin lipids, oxidative phosphorylation, liposomes, cholera toxin, mitochondrial membranes, lipopolysaccharides, cholestasis, thyroid hormones, a variety of transporters, amyloid proteins, apoptosis, membrane antigens, ion channels, and phospholipases. Unfortunately, there is little con-

tinuity from chapter to chapter, so that the book reads much more like a collection of symposium chapters than a reference book.

Many of the chapters are written at a "specialist" level, so that they will be of value only to a small number of readers. Part III, entitled "Drug Transporters and Oxidative Stress", consists of two chapters on oxidative phosphorylation and two chapters on liposomes. There is no coverage at all of membrane proteins involved in drug transport.

This book will be of very limited use to most readers of this Journal, despite the interesting and appealing title. On the positive side, the chapters are generally well referenced and the book has a good index.

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JM000482P

10.1021/jm000482p

Books of Interest

Protein Structure Prediction. Methods and Protocols. Edited by David M. Webster. Humana Press, Totowa, NJ. 2000. x + 422 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-896-03637-5. \$89.50.

Amino Acid Analysis Protocols. Edited by Catherine Cooper, Nicolle Packer, and Keith Williams. Humana Press, Totowa, NJ. 2000. xi + 265 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-896-03656-1. \$84.50.

Chemical Aspects of Photodynamic Therapy. By Raymond Bonnet. Gordon and Breach Science Publishers, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 2000. xvi + 305 pp. 17 × 25 cm. ISBN 90-5699-248-1. \$48.00.

Matrix Metalloproteinase Inhibitors in Cancer Therapy. Edited by Neil J. Clendeninn and Krzysztof Appelt. Humana Press, Totowa, NJ. 2000. xi + 262 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-896-03668-5. \$135.00.

Drugs from the Sea. Edited by Nobuhiro Fusetani. Karger, Basel, Switzerland. 2000. vi + 158 pp. 17.5 × 25 cm. ISBN 3-8055-7088-8. \$121.00.

High Throughput Screening for Novel Anti-Inflammatories. Edited by Michael Kahn. Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel, Switzerland. 2000. 272 pp. 17 × 24 cm. ISBN 3 7643 5912 9. DM 238.

Fullerines. Chemistry, Physics, and Technology. Edited by Karl M. Kadish and Rodney S. Ruoff. Wiley Interscience, New York. 2000. ix + 968 pp. 16 × 24 cm. ISBN 0471290890. \$195.00.

JM000486U

10.1021/jm000486u