Metal complexes in Cancer Chemotherapy
Bernhard K. Keppler (Ed.), VCH Weinheim, 1993, pp. 429, £80, DM196.00
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The use of metal complexes to treat cancers has been well established for over 20 years and interest in the area is now sustained at a high level. Many are aware of the therapeutic use of platinum complexes, but are perhaps less familiar with the fast developing use of other metals such as Ti, Ru, Au, Ge and Sn. The relevant literature is not always easy to access for a chemist not familiar with the area as the information is spread through medical as well as more chemical journals. This excellent book addresses this problem with some authoritative general reviews which provide coverage of the relevant chemistry and biochemistry of the most active metals. These are as follows (with numbers of references in parenthesis): Pt and other metals in clinical trials, M.E. Heim (91); Ru, M.J. Clarke (184); Au, P.J. Sadler *et al.* (102); Sn analogues of cisplatin, A.J. Crowe (23); cyclopentadienyl complexes, P. Kopf-Maier (114). In addition there are more specialised reviews on the applications of particular classes of compounds including: Pt phosphonato-complexes, B.K. Keppler *et al.*; Ru DMSO complexes, G. Mestroni *et al.*; Ga complexes, P. Collery *et al.*; Budotitane, B.K. Keppler; Sn salicylic complexes, M. Gielen *et al.*; Sn complexes of peptides, F. Huber *et al.* The general emphasis is on the chemistry and structures of the complexes and their mechanism of action, but there are ample references to clinical data throughout the text. The literature coverage is generally up to date with references up to 1992 appearing to both reviews and the primary literature. Careful editing has ensured that the articles are of a uniformly high standard.

The price of DM196.00 (£80) is not unreasonable these days for a book of this quality and it will be invaluable to those carrying out research in the area, or indeed those who wish to enter the field. It will also be a convenient source book for those who cover this topic in undergraduate or postgraduate courses, and should certainly be included on the list of books to be purchased by the library.

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