

**Progress in Heterocyclic Chemistry, Volume 15.** Edited by Gordon W. Gribble (Dartmouth College) and John A. Joule (University of Manchester). Pergamon (An Imprint of Elsevier Science, Ltd.): Kidlington. 2003. viii + 466 pp. \$232.00. ISBN 0-08-0442887-0.

This book, in keeping with the series, covers the literature on heterocyclic chemistry published during 2002 in the order of increasing ring size and heteroatoms that are present. It also contains the following three specialized reviews: "Recent Advances in the Synthesis of Heterocycles via Ring-Closing Metathesis" by Walters, "Photochemical Isomerizations of Some Five-Membered Heteroaromatic Azoles" by Pavlik, and "Naturally Occurring Halogenated Pyrroles and Indoles" by Gribble. A subject index completes the book.

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**Molecular Pathomechanisms and New Trends in Drug Research.** Edited by György Kéri (Sемmelweis University, Budapest) and Istvan Toth (University of Queensland, Brisbane). Taylor & Francis: London and New York. 2003. xviii + 636 pp. \$105.00. ISBN 0-415-27725-6.

The aim of this book is to introduce the pathomechanisms of various diseases while emphasizing recent results and techniques, including new pathologically relevant target molecules. The 48 chapters range from the broad to the focused and fall under such categories as "Drug Discovery", "Common Pathway and General Mechanism", "Cardiovascular Diseases", and "Drug Applications". Many of the chapters are extremely interesting and provide very useful starting points for a researcher wanting to gain a mechanistic overview of a disease. Chapter 20 by Kopper entitled "Cancer Genetics" and Chapter 21 "Cancer as a Communication Disorder" by Keri and Ullrich, for example, are excellent. However, because no two authors wrote more than one chapter, the constant change in style and

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usage of acronyms makes reading the book a challenge. According to the stated aims, the book is for students studying chemistry, pharmacy, medical sciences, and related subjects. However, these students will surely find the vast use of ill-defined acronyms scattered throughout the book a considerable test of their motivation. A table defining them all would have been useful. An attempt to assemble a multiauthor textbook of this type is extremely ambitious, because the subject matter embraces many rapidly evolving fields. As a consequence, there are areas of the book that are already in need of updating. Most notably, however, the book lacks a good overview, which, for a text of this type, is essential.

In summary, while somewhat disappointed in the book, I recommend its purchase by libraries, because anyone involved in drug research and development is likely to find something useful in some of the really excellent chapters.

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**Ionic Liquids as Green Solvents: Progress and Prospects.** Edited by Robin D. Rogers (The University of Alabama) and Kenneth R. Seddon (The Queen's University of Belfast). American Chemical Society: Washington, DC (Distributed by Oxford University Press). 2003. xvi + 600 pp. \$165.00. ISBN 0-8412-3856-1.

This book contains a representative selection of papers presented at a symposium on the title subject held during the 224th American Chemical Society National Meeting in Boston in August 2002. There are 42 chapters organized into the following areas: Overview; Ionic Liquids: Manufacture and Synthesis; Characterization and Engineering; Biotechnology in Ionic Liquids; Non-Catalytic and Catalytic Chemistry; Photochemistry; and Novel Applications. An author and a subject index complete the book.

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