

Chiral Separation Methods for Pharmaceutical and Biotechnological Products

Chiral Separation Methods for Pharmaceutical and Biotechnological Products. Satinder Ahuja, Editor. Wiley: New York. 2011. 495 + x pages. £90. ISBN 978-0-470-406191-5.

Process chemists need information on chiral separation methods from both an analytical and preparative viewpoint. From the title of this book, I would have expected both aspects to have been covered.

From the preparative viewpoint, the book is severely deficient with only preparative HPLC methods being mentioned, and with one chapter from Merck scientists describing an interesting case study. Throughout the book there is no mention of the preparative separations used in the manufacture of drugs, usually using simulated moving bed (SMB) chromatography and related methods. This is a serious omission.

From the analytical chemistry viewpoint, there are some useful chapters from practitioners of HPLC, GC, and capillary electrophoresis, both academic and industrial. Overall, however, there is some overlap in the individual chapters, resulting in an uneven coverage. In addition, the chapters are not up to date, with only a few references to 2009 and most authors covering only to 2008. I suspect this is not the authors' fault, but more of an editorial problem.

In summary, this book is not recommended to process chemists, mainly because of its failure to adequately address preparative separations.

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