THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY

THIRD EDITION

EDITED BY CAMILLE GEORGES WERMUTH



The Practice of Medicinal Chemistry

Third edition

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Edited by

Camille Georges Wermuth Prestwick Chemical Inc.

Prestwick Chemical Inc Illkirch, France



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Academic Press is an imprint of Elsevier 30 Corporate Drive, Suite 400, Burlington, MA 01803, USA 525 B Street, Suite 1900, San Diego, California 92101-4495, USA 84 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8RR, UK

> First published 1996 Reprinted 2001 Second edition 2003 Third edition 2008

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British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

ISBN: 978-0-12-374194-3

For information on all Academic Press publications visit our web site at www.books.elsevier.com

Typeset by Charon Tec Ltd., A Macmillan Company (www.macmillansolutions.com)

Printed in China 08 09 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Biography



Camille-Georges Wermuth PhD. Prof. and Founder Prestwick Chemical. of was Professor of Organic Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Louis Pasteur University, Strasbourg, France from 1969 to 2002. He became interested in Medicinal Chemistry during his two years of military service in the French Navy at the "Centre d'Etudes Physio biologiques Appliquées à la

Marine" in Toulon. During this time he worked under the supervision of Dr Henri Laborit, the scientist who invented artificial hibernation and discovered chlorpromazine.

Professor Wermuths' main research themes focus on the chemistry and the pharmacology of pyridazine derivatives. The 3-aminopyridazine pharmacophore, in particular, allowed him to accede to an impressive variety of biological activities, including antidepressant and anticonvulsant molecules; inhibitors of enzymes such as mono-amine-oxidases, phosphodiesterases and acetylcholinesterase; ligands for neuro-receptors: GABA-A receptor antagonists, serotonine 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists, dopaminergic and muscarinic agonists. More recently, in collaboration with the scientists of the Sanofi Company, he developed potent antagonists of the 41 amino-acid neuropeptide CRF (corticotrophinreleasing factor) which regulates the release of ACTH and thus the synthesis of corticoids in the adrenal glands. Professor Wermuth has also, in collaboration with Professor Jean-Charles Schwartz and Doctor Pierre Sokoloff (INSERM, Paris), developed selective ligands of the newly discovered dopamine D_3 receptor. After a three-year exploratory phase, this research has led to nanomolar partial agonists which may prove useful in the treatment of the cocaine-withdrawal syndrome.

Besides about 300 scientific papers and about 80 patents, Professor Wermuth is co-author or editor of several books including; *Pharmacologie Moléculaire*, Masson & Cie, Paris; *Médicaments Organiques de Synthèse*, Masson & Cie, Paris; *Medicinal Chemistry for the Twenty-first Century*, Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford; *Trends in QSAR and Molecular Modeling*, ESCOM, Leyden, two editions of *The Practice of Medicinal Chemistry*, Academic Press, London and *The Handbook of Pharmaceutical Salts, Properties Selection and Use*, Wiley-VCH.

Professor Wermuth was awarded the Charles Mentzer Prize of the Société Française de Chimie Thérapeutique in 1984, the Léon Velluz Prize of the French Academy of Science in 1995, the Prix de l'Ordre des Pharmaciens 1998 by the French Academy of Pharmacy and the Carl Mannich Prize of the German Pharmaceutical Society in 2000. He is Corresponding Member of the German Pharmaceutical Society and was nominated Commandeur des Palmes Académiques in 1995. He has been President of the Medicinal Chemistry Section of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) from 1988 to 1992 and from January 1998 to January 2000 was President of the IUPAC Division on Chemistry and Human Health. This page intentionally left blank

Section Editors



Michael J. Bowker studied chemistry and received his doctorate in Organic Chemistry from the University of Leeds, UK. After 5 years working for a multinational polymer company, he moved to May & Baker Ltd., a UK subsidiary of Rhône-Poulenc Santé (now Sanofi-Aventis). He was a Director of Analytical Chemistry for about 15 years and, more

recently, Director of Preformulation at Aventis Pharma Ltd. He has been intimately involved in preformulation and solid-state activities, on a worldwide basis for more than 15 years. He has published several research papers and one chapter for a book on pharmaceutical salts and is currently a Director of M. J. Bowker Consulting Limited, a small company undertaking consultancy in salt selection, polymorph selection and pharmaceutical preformulation.



Hugo Kubinyi is a Medicinal Chemist with 35 years of industrial experience in drug design, molecular modeling, protein crystallography and combinatorial chemistry, in Knoll and BASF AG, Ludwigshafen. He is a Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the University of Heidelberg, former Chair of The QSAR and Modelling Society and IUPAC Fellow.

From his scientific work resulted more than 100 publications and seven books on QSAR, drug design, chemogenomics, and drug discovery technologies.







Bryan G. Reuben is Professor Emeritus of Chemical Technology at London South Bank University. He has written widely on the technology and economics of the chemical and pharmaceutical industries. His most recent experimental work was on hydrogen–deuterium exchange in protonated peptides and on the downstream processing of nisin.

Richard B. Silverman is the John Evans Professor of Chemistry at Northwestern University. He has published 240 research articles, holds 38 domestic and foreign patents, has written four books, and is the inventor of LyricaTM (pregabalin), marketed worldwide by Pfizer for refractory epilepsy, neuropathic pain, fibromyalgia, and (in Europe) for generalized anxiety disorder.

David J. Triggle is a SUNY Disinguished Professor and the University Professor State University of New York at Buffalo. Educated in United Kingdom and Canada in physical and organic chemistry he has served a variety roles at Buffalo including Dean of the School of Pharmacy and University Provost. His work has been principally in the area of the chemical pharmacology of drug-receptor and

drug-ion channel interactions. He is the author and editor of some 30 books and several hundred publications.



John R. Proudfoot received his Ph.D. from University College Dublin, Ireland 1981 working in with Professor Dervilla Donnelly. He completed post doctoral studies with Professor Carl Djerassi at Stanford University and Professor John Cashman at the University of California San Francisco.

In 1987, he joined Boehringer Ingelheim and is presently a Distinguished Scientist in the medicinal chemistry department.



Han van de Waterbeemd studied organic and medicinal chemistry and got his PhD at the University of Leiden. After his academic years at the University of Lausanne with Bernard Testa he worked for 20 years in the pharmaceutical industry for Roche, Pfizer and AstraZeneca. His research interests are in optimizing compound quality using measured and predicted physico-

chemical and DMPK properties. He contributed to 145 research papers and book chapters, and (co-)edited 13 books.

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Contributors

Raffaella. G. Balocco Mattavelli

Manager of the International Nonproprietary Names Programme Quality Assurance & Safety: Medicines World Health Organization 20, av. Appia CH-1211, Geneva 27

Paul L. Bartel Myriad Genetics, Inc. 320 Wakara Way Salt Lake City, UT 84108 USA

Patrick Bazzini Prestwick Chemical Inc. Boulevard Gonthier d'Andernach 67400 Illkirch France

Frans M. Belpaire Heymans Institute for Pharmacology Jeroom Duquesnoylaan 37 9051 Gent Belgium

Koen Boussery Laboratory of Medical Biochemistry and Clinical Analysis Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences Gent University Harelbekestraat 72 9000 Gent Belgium

Michael J. Bowker M.J. Bowker Consulting Ltd. 36, Burses Way Hutton, Brentwood Essex CM13 2PS UK

Sharon D. Bryant Medicinal Chemistry Group Laboratory of Pharmacology and Chemistry National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences P.O. Box 12233, MD: B3-05 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 USA

David Cavalla Arachnova St. John's Innovation Centre Cambridge CB4 4WS UK

François Chast Pharmacy, Pharmacology, Toxicology Department Hôtel-Dieu 1, Place du Parvis Notre-Dame 75004 Paris France

Paola Ciapetti Head of Medicinal Chemistry Novalyst Discovery Boulevard Sébastien Brant BP 30170 F-67405 Illkirch Cedex France

Jean-Marie Contreras Prestwick Chemical Inc. Boulevard Gonthier d'Andernach 67400 Illkirch France

Gordon M. Cragg Natural Products Branch National Cancer Institute 1003 W 7th Street, Suite 206 Frederick, MD 21701 USA

Patrick M. Dansette Laboratoire de Chimie et Biochimie Pharmacologiques et Toxicologiques Université PARIS Descartes UMR 8601 – CNRS 45, Rue des Saints Pères F-75270 Paris Cedex 06 France

Ji-Cui Dong

International Nonproprietary Names Programme Quality Assurance & Safety: Medicines World Health Organization 20, av. Appia CH-1211, Geneva 27

Bernard Faller

Novartis Pharma AG Werk Klybeck Klybeckstrasse 141 WKL-122.P.33 CH-4057 Basel Switzerland

Bennett T. Farmer

Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 900 Ridgebury Road P.O. Box 368 Ridgefield, CT 06877 USA

Bruno Galli

Novartis Pharma AG TRD-PTM WSJ-340-451 Lichtstrasse 35 CH-4056 Basel Switzerland

Jean-Pierre Gies

Université Louis Pasteur Faculté de Pharmacie Equipe de Signalisation Cellulaire 74, Route du Rhin 67401 Illkirch-Cedex, France

Bruno Giethlen

Prestwick Chemical Inc. Boulevard Gonthier d'Andernach 67400 Illkirch France

Fumitoshi Hirayama

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences Sojo University 4-22-1 Ikeda Kumamoto 860-0082 Japan

Adrian N. Hobden

Myriad Genetics, Inc. 320 Wakara Way Salt Lake City, UT 84108 USA

Andrew L. Hopkins

Division of Biological Chemistry and Drug Discovery College of Life Sciences University of Dundee Dundee Scotland DD1 5EH UK

Peter Imming

Institut für Pharmazie Martin-Luther-Universitaet Halle-wittenberg Wolfgang-Langenbeck-Str. 4 06120 Halle (Saale) Germany

Paul F. Jackson

Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical R&D, L.L.C. Welsh McKean Roads P.O. Box 776 Spring House, PA 19477 USA

David G. I. Kingston

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University Department of Chemistry, M/C 0212 3111 Hahn Hall West Campus Drive Blacksburg, VA 24061 USA

Sabine Kopp

Medicines Quality Assurance Programme Quality Assurance & Safety: Medicines World Health Organization 20, av. Appia CH-1211 Geneva 27

Hugo Kubinyi

Donnersbergstrasse 9 67256 Weisenheim am Sand Germany

Kamal Kumar

Max Planck Institute of Molecular Physiology Otto-Hahn-Str. 11 D-44227 Dortmund Germany

Yves Landry

Université Louis Pasteur Faculté de Pharmacie Equipe de Signalisation Cellulaire 74, Route du Rhin 67401 Illkirch-Cedex, France

Thierry Langer

Inte:Ligand GmbH Clemens Maria Hofbauer-G.6 2344 Maria Enzersdorf Austria

Institute of Pharmacy University of Innsbruck Innrain 52 6020 Innsbruck Austria

Sophie Lasseur

International Nonproprietary Names Programme Quality Assurance & Safety: Medicines World Health Organization 20, av. Appia CH-1211, Geneva 27

Christopher A. Lipinski Melior Discovery 10 Conshire Drive Waterford, CT 06385-4122 USA

Anne-Christine Macherey Unité de Prévention du Risque Chimique UPS 831–Bat.11 CNRS Avenue de la Terrasse F-91198 Gif sur Yvette Cedex France

André Mann Département de Pharmacochimie de la Communication Cellulaire UMR 7175 LC 1 ULP/CNRS Faculté de Pharmacie 74 route du Rhin 67401 Illkirch France

Christophe Morice

Prestwick Chemical Inc. Boulevard Gonthier d'Andernach 67400 Illkirch France

Richard Morphy Organon Laboratories Ltd. A part of the Schering Plough Corporation Newhouse Lanarkshire Scotland ML1 5SH UK

David J. Newman Natural Products Branch National Cancer Institute 1003 W 7th Street, Suite 206 Frederick, MD 21701 USA

Jean-Pierre Nowicki

Sanofi-Aventis RD 31, Avenue Paul Vaillant-Couturier 92220 Bagneux France

Alex Polinsky Research Technologies Pfizer Global Research and Development 620 Memorial Drive Cambridge, MA 02138 USA

John R. Proudfoot Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. 900 Ridgebury Road P.O. Box 368 Ridgefield, CT 06877 USA

Z. Rankovic Organon Laboratories Ltd. A part of the Schering Plough Corporation Newhouse Lanarkshire Scotland ML1 5SH UK

Allen B. Reitz Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development, LLC Welsh McKean Rds. Spring House, PA 19477 USA

Bryan G. Reuben London South Bank University 24 Claverley Grove London N3 2DH UK

Jean-Michel Rondeau Novartis Pharma AG Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research WSJ-88.8.08A CH-4056 Basel Switzerland Sally Rose Cresset BioMolecular Discovery Ltd BioPark Hertfordshire Broadwater Road Welwyn Garden City Herts., AL7 3AX UK

Bernard Scatton Sanofi-Aventis RD 31, Avenue Paul Vaillant-Couturier 92220 Bagneux France

Laurent Schaeffer Prestwick Chemical Inc. Boulevard Gonthier d'Andernach 67400 Illkirch France

Jean-Michel Scherrmann

INSERM U 705; CNRS 7157 University Paris Descartes and Paris Diderot Department of Pharmacokinetics Faculty of Pharmacy 4, avenue de l'Observatoire 75006 Paris France

Herman Schreuder Aventis Pharma Deutschland GmbH Building G 6865A D-65926 Frankfurt am Main Germany

Brian C. Shook

Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical R&D, L.L.C. Welsh McKean Roads P.O. Box 776 Spring House, PA 19477 USA

Richard B. Silverman

Department of Chemistry Northwestern University 2145, Sheridon Road Evanston, IL 60208-3113 USA

Wolfgang Sippl

Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Wolfgang-Langenbeck-Str. 4 06120 Halle (Saale) Germany Maria Souleau Sanofi-Aventis 20, Rue Raymond Aron 92160 Antony France

P. Heinrich Stahl

Lerchenstrasse 28 79104 Freiburg im Breisgau Germany

Bernard Testa

Service de Pharmacie, CHUV Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois Rue du Bugnon 46 CH-1011 Lausanne Switzerland

David J Triggle

SUNY at Buffalo School of Pharmaceutical Sciences 126 Cooke Hall Buffalo, NY 14260 USA

Kaneto Uekama

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences Sojo University 4-22-1 Ikeda Kumamoto 860-0082 Japan

Johan Van de Voorde

Ghent University Vascular Research Unit De Pintelaan 185 – Blok B 9000 Gent Belgium

Han van de Waterbeemd

AstraZeneca LG DECS, Global Compound Sciences Alderley Park, 50S39 Macclesfield Cheshire SK10 4TG UK

Herbert Waldmann

Max Planck Institute of Molecular Physiology Otto-Hahn-Str. 11 D-44227 Dortmund Germany

Camille G. Wermuth

Prestwick Chemical Inc. Boulevard Gonthier d'Andernach 67400 Illkirch France

Stefan Wetzel

Max Planck Institute of Molecular Physiology Otto-Hahn-Str. 11 D-44227 Dortmund Germany Kenton H. Zavitz Myriad Genetics, Inc. 320 Wakara Way Salt Lake City, UT 84108 USA This page intentionally left blank

The role of chemistry in the manufacture of new drugs, and also of cosmetics and agrochemicals, is essential. It is doubtful, however, whether chemists have been properly trained to design and synthesize new drugs or other bioactive compounds. The majority of medicinal chemists working in the pharmaceutical industry are organic synthetic chemists with little or no background in medicinal chemistry who have to acquire the specific aspects of medicinal chemistry during their early years in the pharmaceutical industry. This book is precisely aimed to be their 'bedside book' at the beginning of their career.

After a concise introduction covering background subject matter, such as the definition and history of medicinal chemistry, the measurement of biological activities and the three main phases of drug activity, the second part of the book discusses the most appropriate approach to finding a new lead compound or an original working hypothesis. This most uncertain stage in the development of a new drug is nowadays characterized by high-throughput screening methods, synthesis of combinatorial libraries, data base mining and a return to natural product screening. The core of the book (Parts III to V) considers the optimization of the lead in terms of potency, selectivity, and safety. In 'Primary Exploration of Structure-Activity Relationships', the most common operational stratagems are discussed, allowing identification of the portions of the molecule that are important for potency. 'Substituents and functions' deals with the rapid and systematic optimization of the lead compound. 'Spatial Organization, Receptor Mapping and Molecular Modelling' considers the threedimensional aspects of drug-receptor interactions, giving particular emphasis to the design of peptidomimetic drugs and to the control of the agonist- antagonist transition. Parts VI and VII concentrate on the definition of satisfactory drug-delivery conditions, i.e. means to ensure that the molecule reaches its target organ. Pharmacokinetic properties are improved through adequate chemical modifications, notably prodrug design, obtaining suitable water solubility (of utmost importance in medical practice) and improving organoleptic properties (and thus rendering the drug administration acceptable to the patient). Part VIII, 'Development of New Drugs: Legal and Economic Aspects', constitutes an important area in which chemists are almost wholly self taught following their entry into industry.

This book fills a gap in the available bibliography of medicinal chemistry texts. There is not, to the authoreditor's knowledge, any other current work in print which deals with the practical aspects of medicinal chemistry, from conception of molecules to their marketing. In this single volume, all the disparate bits of information which medicinal chemists gather over a career, and generally share by word-of-mouth with their colleagues, but which have never been organized and presented in coherent form in print, are brought together. Traditional approaches are not neglected and are illustrated by modern examples and, conversely, the most recent discovery and development technologies are presented and discussed by specialists. Therefore, The Practice of Medicinal Chemistry is exactly the type of book to be recommended as a text or as first reading to a synthetic chemist beginning a career in medicinal chemistry. And, even if primarily aimed at organic chemists entering into pharmaceutical research, all medicinal chemists will derive a great deal from reading the book.

The involvement of a large number of authors presents the risk of a certain lack of cohesiveness and of some overlaps, especially as each chapter is written as an autonomic piece of information. Such a situation was anticipated and accepted, especially for a first edition. It can be defended because each contributor is an expert in his/her field and many of them are 'heavyweights' in medicinal chemistry. In editing the book I have tried to ensure a balanced content and a more-or-less consistent style. However, the temptation to influence the personal views of the authors has been resisted. On the contrary, my objective was to combine a plurality of opinions, and to present and discuss a given topic from different angles. Such as it is, this first edition can still be improved and I am grateful in advance to all colleagues for comments and suggestions for future editions.

Special care has been taken to give complete references and, in general, each compound described has been identified by at least one reference. For compounds for which no specific literature indication is given, the reader is referred to the Merck Index.

The cover picture of the book is a reproduction of a copperplate engraving designed for me by the late Charles Gutknecht, who was my secondary school chemistry teacher in Mulhouse. It represents an extract of Brueghel's engraving *The alchemist ruining his family in pursuing his chimera*, surmounted by the aquarius symbol. Represented on the left-hand side is my lucky charm caster oil plant (*Ricinus communis L., Euphorbiaceae*), which was the starting point of the pyridazine chemistry in my laboratory. The historical cascade of events was as follows: cracking of caster oil produces n-heptanal and aldolization of

n-heptanal – and, more generally, of any enolisable aldehyde or ketone – with pyruvic acid leads to a-hydroxy- γ -ketonic acids. Finally, the condensation of these keto acids with hydrazine yields pyrodazones. Thus, all our present research on pyridazine derivatives originates from my schoolboy chemistry, when I prepared in my home in Mulhouse n-heptanal and undecylenic acid by cracking caster oil!

Preparing this book was a collective adventure and I am most grateful to all authors for their cooperation and for the time and the effort they spent to write their respective contributions. I appreciate also their patience, especially as the editing process took much more time than initially expected.

I am very grateful to Brad Anderson (University of Utah, Salt Lake city), Jean-Jacques André (Marion Merrell

Dow, Strasbourg), Richard Baker (Eli Lilly, Erl Wood, UK), Thomas C. Jones (Sandoz, Basle), Isabelle Morin (Servier, Paris), Bryan Reuben (London South Bank University) and John Topliss (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) for their invaluable assistance, comments and contributions.

My thanks go also to the editorial staff of Academic Press in London, Particularly to Susan Lord, Nicola Linton and Fran Kingston, to the two copy editors Len Cegielka and Peter Cross, and finally, to the two secretaries of our laboratory, Franqois Herth and Marylse Wernert.

Last but not least, I want to thank my wife Renée for all her encouragement and for sacrificing evenings an Saturday family life over the past year and a half, to allow me to sit before my computer for about 2500 hours!

Camille G. Wermuth

Like the first edition of *The Practice of Medicinal Chemistry* (nicknamed 'The Bible' by medicinal chemists) the second edition is intended primarily for organic chemists beginning a career in drug research. Furthermore, it is a valuable reference source for academic, as well as industrial, medicinal chemists. The general philosophy of the book is to complete the biological progress – Intellectualization at the level of function using the chemical progress Intellectualization at the level of structure (Professor Samuel J. Danishevsky, *Studies in the chemistry and biology of the epothilones and eleutherobins*, Conference given at the XXXIVémes Rencontres Internationales de Chimie Th6rapeutique, Facult6 de Pharmacie, Nantes, 8–10 July, 1998).

The recent results from genomic research have allowed for the identification of a great number of new targets, corresponding to hitherto unknown receptors or to new subtypes of already existing receptors. The massive use of combinatorial chemistry, associated with high throughput screening technologies, has identified thousands of hits for these targets. The present challenge is to develop these hits into usable and useful drug candidates. This book is, therefore, particularly timely as it covers abundantly the subject of drug optimization.

The new edition of the book has been updated, expanded and refocused to reflect developments over the nine years since the first edition was published. Experts in the field have provided personal accounts of both traditional methodologies, and the newest discovery and development technologies, giving us an insight into diverse aspects of medicinal chemistry, usually only gained from years of practical experience.

Like the previous edition, this edition includes a concise introduction covering the definition and history of

medicinal chemistry, the measurement of biological activities and the three main phases of drug activity. This is followed by detailed discussions on the discovery of new lead compounds including automated, high throughput screening techniques, combinatorial chemistry and the use of the internet, all of which serve to reduce pre-clinical development times and, thus, the cost of drugs. Further chapters discuss the optimization of lead compounds in terms of potency, selectivity, and safety; the contribution of genomics; molecular biology and X-ray crystallization to drug discovery and development, including the design of peptidomimetic drugs; and the development of drug-delivery systems, including organ targeting and the preparation of pharmaceutically acceptable salts. The final section covers legal and economic aspects of drug discovery and production, including drug sources, good manufacturing practices, drug nomenclature, patent protection, social-economic implications and the future of the pharmaceutical industry.

I am deeply indebted to all co-authors for their cooperation, for the time they spent writing their respective contributions and for their patience during the editing process. I am very grateful to Didier Rognan, Paola Ciapetti, Bruno Giethlen, Annie Marcincal, Marie-Louise Jung, Jean-Marie Contreras and Patrick Bazzini for their helpful comments.

My thanks go also to the editorial staff of *Academic Press* in London, particularly to Margaret Macdonald and Jacqueline Read. Last but not least, I want to express my gratitude to my wife Renée for all her encouragements and for her comprehensiveness.

Camille G. Wermuth

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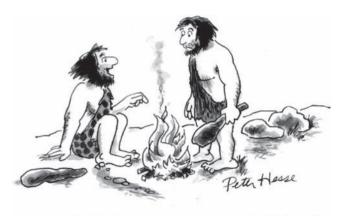
Like the preceding editions of this book, this third edition treats of the essential elements of medicinal chemistry in a unique volume. It provides a practical overview of the daily problems facing medicinal chemists, from the conception of new molecules through to the production of new drugs and their legal/economic implications. This edition has been updated, expanded and refocused to reflect developments in the past 5 years, including 11 new chapters on topics such as hit identification methodologies and cheminformatics. More than 50 experts in the field from eight different countries, who have benefited from years of practical experience, give personal accounts of both traditional methodologies and the newest discovery and development technologies, providing readers with an insight into medicinal chemistry.

A major change in comparison to the previous editions was the decision to alleviate my editorial burden in sharing it with seven section editors, each being responsible for one of the eight sections of the book. I highly appreciated their positive and efficacious collaboration and express them my warmest thanks (in the alphabetical order) to Michael Bowker, Hugo Kubinyi, John Proudfood, Bryan Reuben, Richard Silverman, David Triggle and Han van de Waterbeemd.

Another change was the decision taken by Elsevier/ Academic Press to publish the book in full colors thus rendering it more pleasant and user-friendly. I take this occasion to thank Keri Witman, Pat Gonzales, Kirsten Funk and Renske van Dijk for having successively ensured the editorial development of the book. Taking into account that we had to work with a cohort of about 50 authors, each of them having his personality, his original approach and his main busy professional live, this was not an easy task. I am deeply indebted to my assistant Odile Blin for the way she had mastered, efficiently and with friendliness, all the secretarial work and particularly the contacts with the different authors and with the Elsevier development editors. As for the earlier editions, I also want to express my gratitude to my wife Renée and my daughters Delphine, Joëlle and Séverine for all their encouragements and for sacrificing many hours of family life in order to leave me enough free time to edit this new version of the "Medicinal Chemist's Bible."

My final thoughts go to the future readers of the book, and especially to the newcomers in Medicinal Chemistry having the curiosity to read the preface. I cannot resist giving them some advice for doing good science.

First of all, be open-minded and original. As Schopenhauer noted, the task of the creative mind is "not so much to see what no one has seen yet; but to think what nobody has thought yet, about what everyone sees." A wonderful illustration is found in Peter Hesse's cartoon below.



" IT'S CALLED FIRE ... IT RECYCLES WOOD . "

Second, always keep in mind that the object of Medicinal Chemistry is to synthetize new drugs useful for suffering patients. Like many scientists, medicinal chemists, have to navigate between two tempting reefs. On one side they should avoid doing "NAAR": non-applicable applied research, on the other side they may be attracted by "NFBR": non-fundamental basic search."

Third, convinced as they may be that the neighbors grass is always greener, they may be attracted to start their research in using as a hit a recently published competitor's product. In fact, the published compound may exhibit only a weak activity, therefore be very careful when starting a new program and never forget that the worst thing a medicinal chemist can do is to prepare a me-too of an inactive compound!

Camille G. Wermuth

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Part I

General Aspects of Medicinal Chemistry

Hugo Kubinyi Section Editor This page intentionally left blank

Chapter 1

A History of Drug Discovery

From first steps of chemistry to achievements in molecular pharmacology

François Chast

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The renewal of chemistry
- B. The dawn of the organic chemistry crosses the birth of biology
- II. TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF DRUG DISCOVERIES
 - A. Pain killers: best-sellers and controversies
 - B. Giving back the heart its youth

- C. Fight against microbes and viruses
- D. Drugs for immunosuppression
- E. Contribution of chemists to the fight against cancer
- F. Drugs for endocrine disorders
- G. Anti-acid drugs
- H. Lipid lowering drugs
- I. From neurotransmitters to receptors

- J. Drugs of the mind
- III. CONSIDERATIONS ON RECENT TRENDS IN DRUG DISCOVERY
 - A. From genetics to DNA technology
 - B. Hopes and limits for drug hunting
- REFERENCES

Le médicament place l'organisme dans des conditions particulières qui en modifient heureusement les procédés physiques et chimiques lorsqu'ils ont été troublés.

Claude Bernard*

During more than 2,000 years, Hippocratic medical tradition weighed on the development of a modern medicine and a renewed approach of the treatment of diseases. The basis for the use of drugs remained founded on empirical theories linked to the equilibrium of body's "humors" consisting in sanguine, melancholic, phlegmatic and choleric. Health and disease were seen as a question of balance or imbalance with foods and herbs classified according to their ability to affect natural homeostasis. Later, during the Middle Ages, Muslim world made significant contributions to medicine and a major medical advance was the founding of many hospitals and university medical schools.

Before the 1800s, pharmacy remained an empiric science, guided by traditional medicine, inherited from "Ancients." Numerous drugs, most of them being prepared with plant extracts, (Figure 1.1) sometimes efficacious, were available. But none of them could respond to a chemical definition of what we call today a drug, except drugs coming from mineral reign.

The technology of making drugs was crude at best: tinctures, poultices, soups, and infusions were made with water- or alcohol-based extracts of freshly ground or dried herbs or animal products such as bone, fat, or even pearls, and sometimes from minerals best left in the ground.¹

The objective of this first chapter is to offer a presentation of the fabulous history of drug discoveries, from traditional pharmacy emerged from ethnopharmacy, till the recent

^{*}Leçons sur les Effets de Substances Médicamenteuses et Toxiques (1857) deuxième leçon (5 mars 1856), p.38: "Drugs place the body in particular conditions which modify fortunately the physical and chemical processes when they have been disturbed."

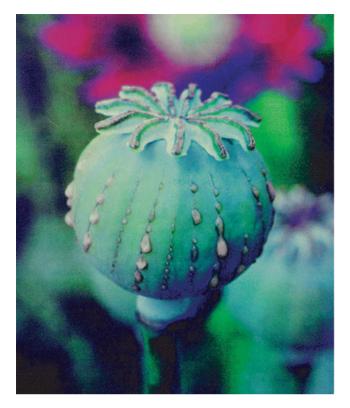


FIGURE 1.1 Opium latex flowing out of poppy.

concepts of drug design, production and development, born from molecular genetics and molecular pharmacology.

Of course, it is not possible to describe exhaustively, in such a short chapter, such a complex and diversified history. We made the choice to describe the evolution of few families of drugs as examples of mankind ingenuity and intelligence to make pharmaceutical progress more and more successful in treating or preventing diseases.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The renewal of chemistry

The 18th century concluded its progress in chemistry with an enthusiastic environment. Joseph Priestley in the United Kingdom, Carl Wilhelm Scheele in Sweden, Antoine Laurent de Lavoisier in France,² gave a precise signification to the chemical reactivity and promoted a large number of substances to the statute of chemical reagents. Scheele and Priestley prepared and studied oxygen. Both of them discovered nitrogen as a constituent of air, carbon monoxide, ammonia, and several other gases ; manganese, barium and chlorine; isolated glycerin and many acids, including tartaric, lactic, uric, prussic, citric, and gallic. Lavoisier is generally considered as the founder of modern chemistry as creating the oxygen theory of combustion.³ He should be known as one of the most astonishing 18th century "men of the Enlightenment," the founder of modern scientific experimental methodology. By formulating the principle of the conservation of mass, he gave a clear differentiation between elements and compounds, something so important for pharmaceutical chemistry. Few years later, Antoine François de Fourcroy, Louis Nicolas Vauquelin, Joseph Louis Proust, Jöns Jakob Berzelius, Louis-Joseph Gay-Lussac, and Humphrey Davy introduced new concepts in chemistry. Those scientists integrated the practical advancements of a new generation of experimenters. All these industrial innovations would have their own impact on other developments in industrial and then medicinal chemistry.⁴ At the turn of the 19th century, as the result of a scientific approach, drugs are becoming an industrial item. Claude Louis Berthollet began the industrial exploitation of chlorine (1785). Nicolas Leblanc prepared sodium hydroxide (1789) and then, bleach (1796). Davy performed electrolysis and distinguished between acids and anhydrides. Louis Jacques Thénard prepared hydrogen peroxide and Antoine Jérôme Balard discovered bromide (1826). The growing of therapeutic resources was mainly due to the mastery of chemical or physico-chemical principles proposed by Gay-Lussac and Justus Von Liebig.⁵ This chemists' generation, by realizing all these discoveries, established the compost of the therapeutic discoveries of the 19th century. The constitution of chemistry as a scientific discipline found a new turn few decades later by crossing the road of biology which included revolutionary works of Claude Bernard,⁶ Rudolph Virchow,⁷ and Louis Pasteur.⁸ Besides these fundamental sciences, physiology, biochemistry, or microbiology were becoming natural tributaries of the outbreak of pharmacology. Thus, rational treatments were about to be designed on the purpose of new knowledge in various clinical or fundamental fields. After a period characterized by extraction and purification from natural materials (mainly plants), drugs would be synthesized in chemical factories or prepared through biotechnology (fermentation or gene technology) after a rational research, design and development in research laboratories. Whereas the purpose was to isolate active molecules from plants during the first half of the 19th century, the birth of organic chemistry following charcoal and oil industries, progressively led chemists and pharmacists toward organic synthesis performed in what would be called "laboratory" a new concept created by this generation of scientists. Even when those laboratories hosted discoveries like active principles extracted from plants, progresses in drug compounding and packaging made irreversible industrialization processes. At the same time, the economical dimension of growing pharmaceutical industry transformed drugs as strategic items, mainly when it could interfere with military processes, for instance during colonial expeditions.

The "modern" word "*pharmacology*" became more and more often used by physicians after the works of François Magendie (Figure 1.2) in France or Oscar Schmiedeberg in Germany. Progressively a clear dichotomy took place between those two entities. *Materia Medica* considered drugs with a static and conservative view as for their