

EDITORIAL

Pharmacy, the interdisciplinary field of science

Editor-in-Chief: Professor Pál Perjési

Pharmacy is an interdisciplinary field of science, which covers the knowledge of fate of drugs (pharmacocon), excipients and formulated pharmaceutical products outside and inside the body. Separation of pharmacy as a separate entity of medicine is dated back to the ninth century.^[1] The trend toward specialization was later reinforced by a law enacted by the German Emperor Frederic II at the beginning of the thirteenth century.^[2] Since these early times pharmacy underwent a continuous and intense development. *Pharmaceutics, Pharmaceutical chemistry, Pharmacognosy, Pharmacology and Toxicology* are the conventional fields of pharmacy, which serve as the source of practical and theoretical basis of development of new pharmaceutical products.

Pharmaceutical research covers synthesis, isolation and standardization of drugs, studies on physico-chemical basis of pharmaceutical formulations and controlling quality of the drugs and their different dosage forms. Those substances that are made from a living organism are called biological drugs. Since the physico-chemical properties of these latter drugs are rather different from the synthetic or isolated small molecules, manufacturing, quality control and formulation of them need new techniques and protocols. The accumulated knowledge of these disciplines is referred to as *Pharmaceutical Biotechnology*.^[3]

Another branch of pharmaceutical research is the availability to the body (bioavailability) of the various dosage forms of drugs. Biopharmacy examines the interrelationship of the physical/chemical properties (SAR/QSAR) of the drug, the dosage form in which the drug is given, and the route of administration on the rate and extent of systemic drug absorption. *Pharmacokinetics, physico-chemical characterization, biotransformation* (metabolism) and interactions of drugs are the main disciplines of biopharmaceutical research.^[4] Since analysis of drugs and drug metabolites in biological samples needs complex sample preparations as well as selective and sensitive analytical methods, a new subdiscipline of Pharmaceutical analysis, Bioanalysis, has been emerged to meet the scientific needs and regulatory requirements.

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Correspondence to: Pál Perjési, Institute of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary; Email: pál.perjesi@aok.pte.hu

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(c) *Short reviews* (of approximately 120 words) and announcements of newly received books related to the fields of the journal.

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