



Topics in the History of Pharmacology

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Reviewing a book is really a difficult job, especially when it is written by people who themselves are masters in a particular field. I am only trying to contribute a little by giving important and useful information about a book titled “Topics in the History of Pharmacology.”

As pharmacology has a rich heritage, we should know the contributions of ancient cultures to modern medical science. The most attractive chapter that inspired me to write the review is “A Post-Graduate Course in the History of pharmacology And Drug Discovery,” which provides not only guidelines but a well-sectioned syllabus for implementation of such a course designed by P.N. Patil.

The first chapter about Ayurveda broadly encompasses the journey from traditional to modern medicine with milestones, showing a golden opportunity to integrate the Indian system of medicine with the western as we are facing problems due to the introduction of TRIPS by 2005.

The chapter Medicinal Plants in India by Satyavati provides us with detailed information on multidisciplinary, multicentric studies on medicinal plants, disease-oriented research on herbal drugs, networking strategy for monitoring of such researches, role of innovative approach and novel insights into action of natural products, regulatory compendia, etc. It is really a blessing for researchers who want to work on medicinal plants by using recent/novel technique and with authorized regulatory control.

Two chapters describe specialized fields that include drug action on receptors and historical perspectives on molecular chirality and its significance in pharmacology. The first (by Parscandola) forms the backbone of concept of receptor theory experimental proof, which was provided by two historical legends Paul Ehrlich and John Newport Langly.

Chirality attempts to provide safe and more potent

compounds, which was confirmed by a chapter on it by Patil.

Apart from these important topics providing information such as contributions of the Central Drug Research Institute to drug development till date, how to deal with industrial pollution, Bhopal tragedy, inspirational contribution to pharmacology by P.C. Dandiya, P.K. Sanyal and N.K. Bhide in chapters that give autobiographical review are also important.

From the academic point of view, one more chapter by Gopi Tejwani can be a torchbearer describing online training in pharmacology. It sensitizes the readers to this novel method of unconventional teaching of pharmacology.

Although this book itself becomes a very good source of information for pharmacologists, pharmacists, drug industry, toxicologists, clinicians and researchers, but in future edition, updating all topics would be quite interesting and helpful, such as development of clinical pharmacology in India, etc.

In conclusion, this book is a useful tool for academic as well as other sectors. For undergraduate students it is sufficient to give brief idea about the history, but at the postgraduate level it is important to know everything for information, implementation and future pharmacological evolution.

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