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INTRODUCTORY MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY

J. B. Taylor
P. D. Kennewell

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Author's Preface

The intention of the authors is to provide an introduction to the challenging world of medicinal chemistry research for those scientists entering this growing field. In particular, we realise that most entrants to the chemical research departments of pharmaceutical companies are organic chemists who may have only a minimum knowledge of the biological and pharmaceutical sciences. Moreover, all too often these people have no formalised instruction in medicinal chemistry, but are dependent upon advanced treatises on the subject and are left to 'sink or swim' in the vast sea of scientific knowledge. In such circumstances the learning process is often longer and more difficult than necessary and this can form a permanent barrier to a proper transition into medicinal chemistry.

This book arose from, and follows the format used in a course of lectures given at the City University, London. The book commences with a general introduction and then follows the idealised path of a drug from its formulation and entry into the human body, its distribution throughout the body, its interaction with possible active sites and finally, its elimination. Specific drugs are often mentioned to illustrate particular points but at all times the emphasis is on the common underlying features of the drug action. A bibliography of recommended further reading is given at the end of the book.

The ideas presented in this book have been refined and developed during discussions with Professor P. G. Sammes, Leeds University, and our colleagues at Roussel Laboratories Ltd. in Swindon and Paris, notably Robert Bucourt, Stephen Clements-Jewery, Colin Gardner, Peter Miller and Robert Westwood. Deep appreciation is due to Doreen Rarity for help with the library work, Dawn Lewis, Anne Delahousse and Patricia Taylor for the typing and Dr. J. Secchi for the photography. Finally our families are thanked for their forebearance during the gestation period required to undertake the writing of this work.