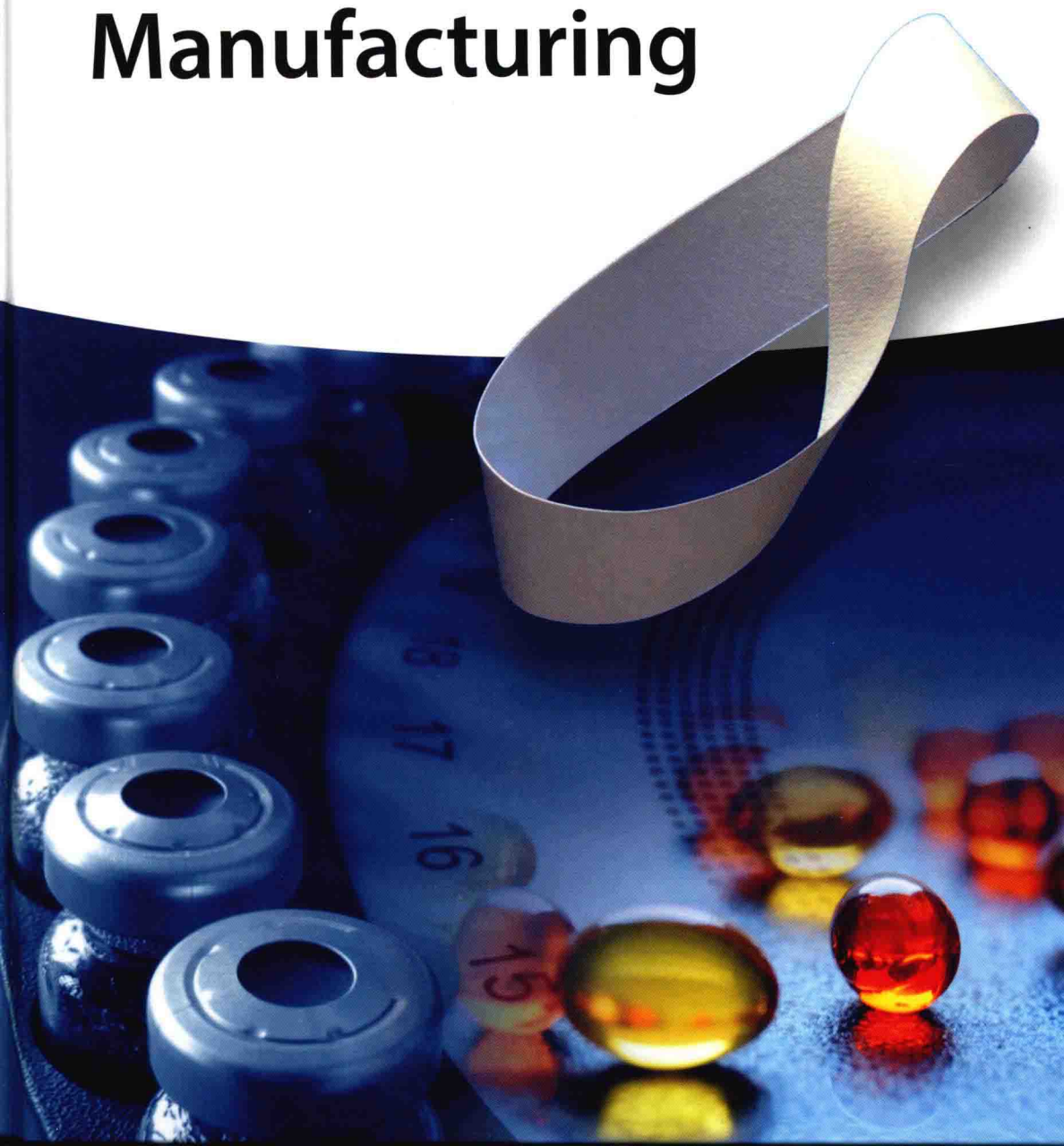


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Continuous Processing in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing



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Continuous Processing in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing



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Preface

A continuous process requires the ability to think laterally and have a proactive mindset across the entire team from lab development through to production. Continuous manufacturing process is not new. It has been in use by the chemical, food, and beverage industries successfully. The biopharmaceutical industries are reluctant to engage in applying advanced technology on continuous processes, and are still using the batch process, which has been in use since the nineteenth century. The batch process is an archaic process that progresses sequentially step by step, creating a specified and fixed amount of therapeutic product, which in modern times is not state-of-the-art. Several reviews and articles have shown that considerable advances have been made by technologists in offering systems for continuous processes. It has been established that continuous processing promises efficiency because it is a well controlled and flexible process, and there is less waste and produces higher quality products. There is considerable economic benefit in applying the continuous process in manufacturing.

Momentum is gathering pace behind the implementation of continuous manufacturing in the pharmaceutical industry. The regulatory bodies are now encouraging companies to move toward continuous manufacturing. Consequently, leading biopharma industries seem to be in the mind of thinking that the time is right for a major effort in the development of continuous processes in their organizations. As more companies look at the practical evidence from pilot and demonstration units, the adoption and commercialization of the new technology is picking up speed and currently several leading global biopharmaceutical industries are moving to implement continuous manufacturing processes in collaboration with technologists and suppliers. It will not be far away that industries will apply the continuous manufacturing process and thus we are setting up a Gold standard for the future, maybe in 10 years or more.

This book presents the most recent scientific and technological advances of continuous processing, as well as methods and applications in the field of biomanufacturing. Each chapter provides introductory material with an overview of the topic of interest; a description of the technology and methods, protocols, instrumentation, and application, and a collection of published data with an extensive list of references for further details.

It is our hope that this book will stimulate a greater appreciation of the usefulness, efficiency, and the potential of single-use systems in continuous processing of biopharmaceuticals, and that it will stimulate further progress and advances in the field of continuous processing to meet the ever-increasing demands and challenges in the manufacturing of therapeutic products.

The completion of this book has been made possible with the help and encouragements of many friends and colleagues. It is a great pleasure for me to acknowledge, with deep gratitude, the contribution of 19 authors of the chapters in this book. Their outstanding work and thoughtful advice throughout the project have been important in achieving the breadth and depth of this book.

I would be most grateful for any suggestions that could serve to improve future editions of this volume.

Finally, my deep appreciation to Dr Frank Weinreich of Wiley-VCH for inviting me to edit the volume and also to Lesley Fenske and her colleagues for their sustained encouragement and help.

Maidenhead, UK
June 2014

G. Subramanian

Contents

List of Contributors XVII

Preface XXIII

- 1 Proteins Separation and Purification by Expanded Bed Adsorption and Simulated Moving Bed Technology** 1
Ping Li, Pedro Ferreira Gomes, José M. Loureiro, and Alirio E. Rodrigues
 - 1.1 Introduction 1
 - 1.2 Protein Capture by Expanded Bed Technology 3
 - 1.2.1 Adsorbent Materials 3
 - 1.2.2 Expanded Bed Adsorption/Desorption of Protein 10
 - 1.2.3 Modeling of the Expanded Bed 13
 - 1.3 Proteins Separation and Purification by Salt Gradient Ion Exchange SMB 15
 - 1.3.1 Adsorption Isotherms and Kinetics of BSA and Myoglobin on Ion Exchange Resins 16
 - 1.3.2 Salt Gradient Formation and Process Design for IE-SMB Chromatography 20
 - 1.3.3 Separation Region of Salt Gradient IE-SMB Chromatography 21
 - 1.3.4 Proteins Separation and Purification in Salt Gradient IE-SMB with Open Loop Configuration 24
 - 1.4 Conclusion 26
 - References 27
- 2 BioSMB Technology as an Enabler for a Fully Continuous Disposable Biomanufacturing Platform** 35
Marc Bisschops
 - 2.1 Introduction 35
 - 2.2 Integrated Continuous Bioprocessing 36
 - 2.3 Multicolumn Chromatography 39

2.4	BioSMB Technology	40
2.5	Fully Disposable Continuous Processing	44
2.6	Case Studies	46
2.7	Regulatory Aspects	47
2.8	Conclusions	50
	References	51
3	Impact of Continuous Processing Techniques on Biologics Supply Chains	53
	<i>Aloke Das</i>	
3.1	Introduction	53
3.1.1	The Biologics Industry	53
3.1.2	The Biologics Value Chain	54
3.1.3	Downstream Purification Costs	54
3.2	Chromatography Techniques Used in Downstream Purification of Biomolecules	55
3.2.1	Need for Continuous Manufacturing in Downstream Purification	56
3.2.2	The Multicolumn Countercurrent Solvent Gradient Purification Chromatography System	58
3.3	Next-Generation Biologic Products – Bispecific Monoclonal Antibodies	59
3.3.1	Major Biopharma Companies and Their Interest in Bispecific Mabs	59
3.3.2	Challenges in Purification of Bispecific Monoclonal Antibodies	60
3.4	Improving the Downstream Processing of Bispecific Mabs by Introduction of MCSGP in the Value Chain	61
3.4.1	Advantages of Utilizing MCSGP Process in Bispecific Mabs Purification as Compared to Batch Chromatography	61
3.4.2	Impact of MCSGP System on Biologic Supply Chains	62
3.4.3	Impact on Patent Approval Structure of Biologic Drugs	62
3.4.3.1	For a Manufacturer Who Already has a Biologic Drug in the Market	62
3.4.3.2	For a Manufacturer Who is Developing a Biologic Drug	62
3.4.4	Impact on Big Biopharma Companies	63
3.4.5	Impact on the Chromatography Market	64
3.4.6	Limitations of the MCSGP System	64
3.5	Conclusion	64
3.6	Further Research	65
	Acknowledgments	66
3.A	Appendix/Additional Information	66
3.A.1	Regulatory Structure for Bispecific Monoclonal Antibodies	67
3.A.1.1	Regulatory Compliance Comparison between US, EU, and Emerging Economies	67
	References	68

4	Integrating Continuous and Single-Use Methods to Establish a New Downstream Processing Platform for Monoclonal Antibodies	71
	<i>Christopher Gillespie, Mikhail Kozlov, Michael Phillips, Ajish Potty, Romas Skudas, Matthew Stone, Alex Xenopoulos, Alison Dupont, Jad Jaber, and William Cataldo</i>	
4.1	Introduction	71
4.2	Harvest and Clarification	74
4.2.1	The Challenge and Technology Selection	74
4.2.1.1	Centrifugation	76
4.2.1.2	Filtration	76
4.2.1.3	Impurity Precipitation	77
4.2.2	Summary	77
4.3	Capture	78
4.3.1	Background	78
4.3.1.1	Protein A Chromatography	78
4.3.2	Chromatographic Methods	79
4.3.2.1	Slurried Bed Methods	79
4.3.2.2	Continuous Chromatography	79
4.3.3	Capture Case Studies	82
4.3.3.1	Continuous Protein A Chromatography Capture Case Study	82
4.3.3.2	Effect of Clarification Method on Protein A Performance	83
4.4	Polishing	84
4.4.1	Background	84
4.4.2	Technology Selection Strategy	86
4.4.3	Complete Flow-Through Polishing Case Study	87
4.5	Cost of Goods Analysis	89
4.5.1	Methodology	89
4.5.2	Clarification	89
4.5.3	Capture	90
4.5.4	Polishing	91
4.5.5	Overall	91
4.6	Summary	92
	References	93
5	Modeling of Protein Monomer/Aggregate Purification by Hydrophobic Interaction Chromatography: Application to Column Design and Process Optimization	97
	<i>Mark-Henry Kamga, Hae Woo Lee, Namjoon Kim, and Seongkyu Yoon</i>	
5.1	Introduction	97
5.2	Mathematical Model	99
5.2.1	The Rate-Limiting Step in the HIC Process	99
5.2.2	Dimensional Considerations	100
5.2.2.1	Adsorption Capacity vs. Concentration of Vacant Sites (q_{mi} vs. C_{vi})	100
5.2.2.2	Concentration of Protein Adsorbed on Resin (q_i vs. C_{ia})	100

5.2.3	Mathematical Model	101
5.3	Experimentation	103
5.3.1	Protein Solutions	103
5.3.2	Determination of Adsorption and Desorption Kinetic Constants	104
5.3.3	Column Chromatography	104
5.4	Results and Discussion	105
5.4.1	Kinetic Constants	105
5.4.2	Protein Denaturation	107
5.4.3	Model vs. Experimental Results	108
5.4.4	Applications	109
5.5	Conclusion	112
	Acknowledgments	112
	References	113
6	Continuous Animal Cell Perfusion Processes: The First Step Toward Integrated Continuous Biomanufacturing	115
	<i>Leda R. Castilho</i>	
6.1	Introduction	115
6.2	The Basics of Perfusion Processes	116
6.3	Cell Banking and Inoculum Development in the Context of Perfusion Processes	117
6.4	Culture Conditions	120
6.5	Cell Retention Devices	125
6.5.1	Gravitational Settlers	126
6.5.2	Centrifuges	130
6.5.3	Hydrocyclones	131
6.5.4	Acoustic (Ultrasonic) Separators	134
6.5.5	Tangential Flow-Filtration	134
6.5.6	ATF Systems	136
6.5.7	Floating Membrane Devices	138
6.5.8	Spin-Filters	138
6.5.9	Rotating Cylindrical Filters (Vortex-Flow Filters or External Spin-Filters)	140
6.5.10	Rotating Disc Filters (Controlled-Shear Filters)	141
6.6	Integrated Perfusion–Purification Processes for Continuous Biomanufacturing	142
6.7	Concluding Remarks	144
	References	145
7	Perfusion Process Design in a 2D Rocking Single-Use Bioreactor	155
	<i>Nico M.G. Oosterhuis</i>	
7.1	Introduction	155
7.2	Production Costs	155
7.3	Equipment Requirements for a Single-Use Perfusion Process	157

7.4	Testing Results Single-Use Perfusion Process	159
7.5	Simplified Seeding Process	161
7.6	Future Outlook	163
	References	163
8	Advances in the Application of Perfusion Technologies to <i>Drosophila</i> S2 Insects Cell Culture	165
	<i>Lars Poulsen and Willem A. de Jongh</i>	
8.1	Introduction	165
8.2	Case Study 1: Acoustic Separation	167
8.2.1	The Perfusion Setup (BioSep)	167
8.2.2	Results and Discussion	168
8.2.2.1	Development	168
8.2.2.2	Cell Count in the Bioreactor	168
8.2.2.3	Effects of BioSep Settings on Cell Loss and Viability	169
8.2.2.4	Controlling the Cell Concentration Through Bleed Rate Control	169
8.2.2.5	Effect of Total Dilution Rate on Culture Viability	170
8.2.2.6	Development of the Perfusion Rate Profile	170
8.2.2.7	Initial Testing of Robustness of Upstream Process in 1.5l Fermentations	170
8.2.2.8	Scaling Up and Consistency in 4.5l Fermentations	171
8.2.2.9	Process Scale-Up	174
8.2.3	Conclusions for Case Study 1	174
8.3	Case Study 2: ATF-Based Cell Retention	176
8.3.1	ATF Technology	176
8.3.2	Methods	177
8.3.3	Results	177
8.3.3.1	Cell Counts Achieved Using Perfusion Technology	177
8.3.3.2	Effect of Feed Strategy	178
8.3.3.3	Yield Improvements Achieved Using Fed-Batch and Concentrated Perfusion	179
8.3.3.4	Protein Stability	179
8.3.4	Conclusions for Case Study 2	180
8.4	Final Remarks	181
	Acknowledgments	181
	References	181
9	Single-Use Systems Support Continuous Bioprocessing by Perfusion Culture	183
	<i>William G. Whitford</i>	
9.1	Introduction	183
9.2	Potential Advantages in Continuous Processing	187
9.2.1	Improved Product Quality	187
9.2.2	Ease in Process Development	188