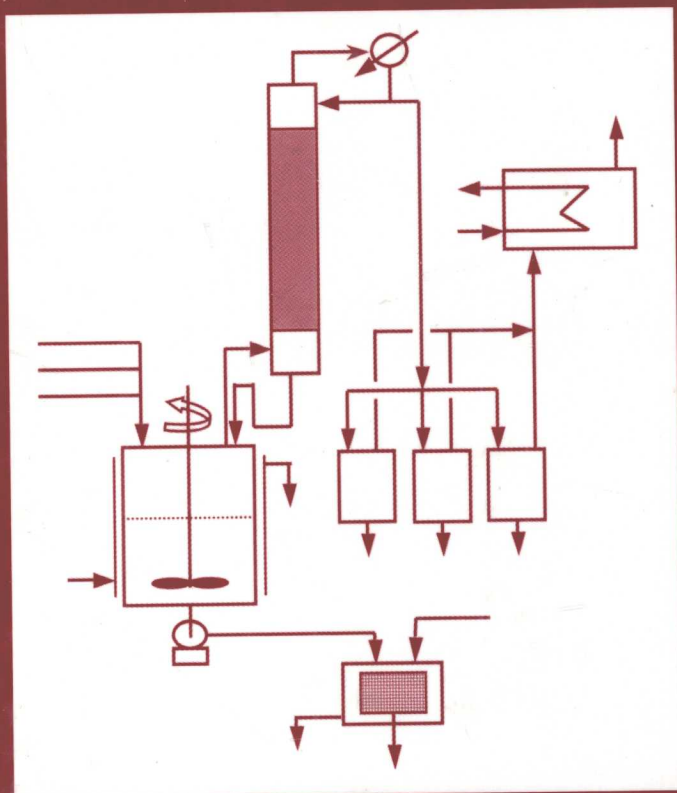


Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients

Development, Manufacturing, and Regulation



edited by
Stanley H. Nusim

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Taylor & Francis
Taylor & Francis Group

Boca Raton London New York Singapore

Published in 2005 by
Taylor & Francis Group
6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 300
Boca Raton, FL 33487-2742

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Printed in the United States of America on acid-free paper
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

International Standard Book Number-10: 0-8247-0293-X (Hardcover)
International Standard Book Number-13: 978-0-8247-0293-9 (Hardcover)

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Catalog record is available from the Library of Congress



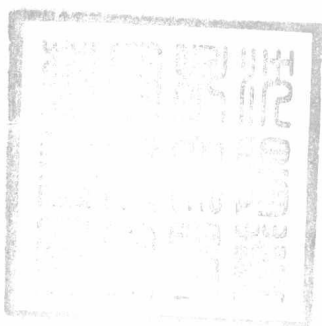
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Preface

Active pharmaceutical ingredients known today as “APIs” are organic chemicals, generally synthetic, that are the subject of this book. These ingredients are chemicals that will be used in a final pharmaceutical dosage form. The manufacturing of these chemicals is a subsection of fine chemical manufacturing. This subsection of the chemical industry has undergone very significant changes in much the same manner, but perhaps trailing, the pharmaceutical industry that manufactured the final dosage form.

The “pharmaceutical industry” at the turn of the 20th century was essentially the local pharmacy (or “chemist” as it was also known). The “bulk pharmaceutical chemical industry” at that time was merely a provider of all those laboratory chemicals, including solvents and excipients as well as APIs needed by the local pharmacist to compound the prescribing doctor’s formulation.

Over this past century, as with many industries, enormous changes have occurred in the pharmaceutical industry, causing equally significant changes for API suppliers. It is these changes, many of which have accelerated in recent decades, that suggested the need for a definitive reference for this manufacturing activity.

At one time following routine chemical manufacturing practices would have been sufficient; however, this is no longer the case. Not only has there been a significant shift in the government regulations that control the redefined “quality” of the product, but a very intensive look at the development of the process to be used as well as the manufacturing activities required to make the API.

This focus is to ensure that the API is produced in an environment that ensures it is free of contamination that may be introduced from inherent process impurities but also from the manufacturing environment itself. The latter is controlled by the so-called “cGMPs” (current Good Manufacturing Practices), while the former by the nature of the chemical process and the level of quality assurance that the process provides; hence, a focus on the process development is essential.

It is the intent of this volume to focus on the three overall activities that bring an API to market; the development of the chemical process, the manufacturing activity utilizing that process, and the governmental regulations that control the approval of the product so that it may be commercially marketed. This book brings together information into a single source that will allow those in the field to be sure they are up to date. In addition, it will provide to those organizations that are planning to enter this field, the basic information needed to think through, understand, and effectively plan bulk manufacturing of an API.

The rapidly changing environment that has occurred in the past decades shows no signs of easing; thus, this volume will be a starting point. Ongoing continuing attention to all aspects of these issues is an absolute necessity to ensure that manufactured APIs will meet the newest standards in an environment that has seen many changes in the market itself as well as its regulation, product mix, and volume.

This text covers those three activities of development, manufacturing, and regulation in its broadest sense. This will include discussions on the process development cycle, introduction of the process into factory design engineering, regulatory matters that include the regulatory approval pro-

cess, quality control/assurance, and validation as well as the standard plant manufacturing operation activities including materials management and planning and maintenance. In addition, it will discuss other plant operational issues including safety and environmental issues that are part of any chemical manufacturing operation.

I have chosen to exclude fermentation and other biological processes from this book although products from those processes continue to be an increasingly important source of pharmaceutical actives in today's world. This decision was made because the chemical routes remain the largest source of actives to the pharmaceutical industry. Actives supplied by biological processes are no less important than chemically generated actives but are sufficiently different to be worthy of their own volume.

I wish to express my thanks to the publisher for its invitation to assemble this book and particularly to Sandra Beberman for bearing with me in the very long and tedious development process for the book. Her advice and encouragement throughout this process was a primary driving force to ensure its completion.

Stanley H. Nusim

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