New Drugs and Targets for Asthma and COPD
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New Drugs and Targets for Asthma and COPD

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Contents

Corresponding authors ................................................................. IX
Foreword ................................................................................... XIII
Preface ...................................................................................... XIV

Introduction

New drugs and targets for asthma and COPD ........................................ 3
Trevor T. Hansel and Peter J. Barnes

Bronchodilators

Indacaterol: A new once-daily long-acting β₂-adrenoceptor agonist (LABA) 27
Jutta Beier, Alexandre Trifilieff and Mark Higgins

Aclidinium bromide, a novel long-acting muscarinic antagonist (LAMA) .... 33
Amadeu Gavaldà and Esther Garcia-Gil

Dual-pharmacology bronchodilators for the treatment of COPD ................. 39
John R. Jacobsen, Jayashree Aiyar, Sharath Hegde, Adam Hughes and Mathai Mammen

IgE- and epithelial-directed approaches

IgE-directed approaches: A general strategy for the treatment of atopic diseases 49
Franz Kricek

Therapy directed against thymic stromal lymphopoietin (TSLP) ................... 55
Matthew J. Edwards

T-cell co-stimulator blockade

ICOS and B7RP-1: Novel targets for monoclonal antibodies ...................... 63
Gianluca Carlesso, Anthony J. Coyle and Ronald Herbst
Adhesion molecules

**Very late activation antigen-4 (VLA-4) antagonists** ................................................................. 169
Peter Vanderslice and Darren G. Woodside

**Selectin antagonists and their potential impact for the treatment of inflammatory lung diseases** ................................................................. 175
Ewald M. Aydt, Daniel Bock and Gerhard Wolff

Mediator receptor antagonists

**Histamine H4 receptor antagonists** ................................................................. 187
Paul J. Dunford and Robin L. Thurmond

**Antagonists of the prostaglandin D2 receptor CRTH2** ................................................................. 193
Roy Pettipher and Trevor T. Hansel

Enzyme inhibitors

**5-Lipoxygenase inhibition** ................................................................. 201
Jaime L. Masferrer, Craig Wegner and Matt Graneto

**Utility of cytosolic phospholipase A2α (cPLA2α) inhibitors in the treatment of asthma** ................................................................. 207
James D. Clark and Cara M.M. Williams

Antioxidants

**Antioxidant therapeutic strategies** ................................................................. 215
Paul Kirkham and Irfan Rahman

Protease inhibitors

**Small-molecule neutrophil elastase inhibitors as therapies for respiratory disease** ................................................................. 225
Mary F. Fitzgerald

**The role of MMP-9 and MMP-12 inhibitors in inflammation** ................................................................. 231
S. Wong, M.A. Birrell, M.G. Belvisi, K. Stenvall and C.P. Bertrand

**α1-Antitrypsin therapy** ................................................................. 237
Philip J. Barr and Philip A. Pemberton

Inhibitors of fibrosis and vessels

**Proteinase-activated receptor-1 inhibitors** ................................................................. 245
Rachel C. Chambers

**Integrin-mediated transforming growth factor-β activation** ................................................................. 251
Gisli Jenkins and Dean Sheppard

**Small-molecule inhibitors of transforming growth factor-β type I receptor kinase (ALK5)** ................................................................. 255
Darren H. Wong and Linda S. Higgins

**Serum amyloid P: A novel antifibrotic agent with therapeutic potential** ................................................................. 261
Mark L. Lupher, Jr. and W. Scott Willett
Inhibitors of cell signaling and transcription

Phosphodiesterase type 4 (PDE4) inhibition: The search for effective therapy with minimal side effects .......................................................... 269
Mike Yeadon, Nick Clarke and Jon Ward

Therapy directed against c-kit (CD117) and PDGF transmembrane receptor tyrosine kinases .......................................................... 279
Christoph Walker, David Rodman and Trevor T. Hansel

Syk kinase inhibitors ............................................................................. 283
Jane Denyer and Vipul Patel

Targeting protein kinase C-θ for asthma .................................................. 289
Divya Chaudhary, Diane H. Boschelli and Marion T. Kasaian

Nucleic acid therapy

A multitargeted antisense therapy directed at CCR3 and the common β-chain of IL-3/IL-5/GM-CSF .................................................. 297
Luc Paquet, Paolo Renzi, Nicolay Ferrari and Mark Parry-Billings

Author Index ......................................................................................... 303
Subject Index ...................................................................................... 304
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Foreword

Ten years ago I had asked Peter Barnes and Trevor Hansel to do a volume on New Drugs for Asthma, Allergy and COPD for the book series Progress in Respiratory Research. It turned out a huge success with readers, and we received many requests for an update. We were therefore very pleased when this time round we were contacted by Trevor whether we would be interested in such an update, both he and Peter had been planning for some time. After screening the template of the book, the answer was an enthusiastic yes from my side.

Very similar to the first version, Trevor and Peter succeeded in putting together an attractive mix of chapters written by scientists from the pharmaceutical industry as well as from academia, actually reflecting the real-life scenario in modern drug development. Again, the authors involved in writing the various chapters represent the ‘who’s who’ in the asthma and COPD research field and guarantee scientific excellence. As the reader can see when screening the table of contents, every possible new compound, some of them close to commercialisation, others still at bench level, is discussed. This will make this book of high interest for many years to come.

True to the vision of the Progress in Respiratory Research series, we attached great importance to cutting-edge data being presented, which is reflected by the fact that many references include publications of up to 2010. The book is richly illustrated with 80 figures, 67 of which are in colour, and 46 tables. I am convinced that this new volume will again appeal to scientists and clinicians alike and enjoy the success of the first version. My final words are a big thank you to Trevor and Peter for having chosen Karger as their publisher and to all the people at the publisher who have helped me in getting this volume out in record time, well done!

C. T. Bolliger, Cape Town
Preface

Ashma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are amongst the commonest diseases known to man, and it is of enormous concern that both are increasing in incidence. Reassuringly, there have been major advances in asthma management, particularly with the early and more widespread use of inhaled corticosteroids in combination with long-acting β-agonists. Yet, there remains a pressing need for new and more specific therapies that control asthma or even cure the underlying disease process. Progress in understanding and treating COPD has been much slower, mainly because this disease of older patients has been relatively neglected. None of the treatments available today prevent the relentless progression of COPD and there is an urgent need to develop novel approaches to combat oxidants, inflammation, proteases and fibrosis. Interestingly, insights into processes occurring in rarer lung diseases such as cystic fibrosis and interstitial lung disorders are proving generally applicable in respiratory disease.

The aim of this book is to offer a state-of-the-art description of the exciting progress in research and development that is being made with new therapies for respiratory diseases. We are very aware that many large tomes are readily available that contain review chapters by leading scientific and clinical authorities. On this basis, our intention has been to link the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry with academic and clinical opinion, as well as the medical needs of patients. In order to develop better therapies, we rely on this partnership, since the modern-day reality is that development of new drugs generally occurs from within the industry.

Following the success of “New Drugs for Asthma, Allergy and COPD” Volume 31 in ‘Progress in Respiratory Research’ published by Karger in 2001, it has been a pleasure to prepare this related volume. We are grateful for the assistance of staff at Prous Science (Thomson Reuters) and thank Karger and Chris Bolliger for publishing it in ‘Progress in Respiratory Research’.

We hope that the reader will find this book both interesting and helpful, and that this volume will facilitate the provision of better therapy for patients with respiratory diseases.

Trevor T. Hansel and Peter J. Barnes
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