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

Volume Editors

Trevor T. Hansel  London
Peter J. Barnes  London

80 figures, 67 in color, 46 tables, 2010
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 \( \beta_2 \)-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 García-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
### Pattern recognition receptors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Toll-like receptor 2 as a therapeutic target in lung disease</strong></td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane A. Mitchell, Rosalinda Sorrentino, Neil Cartwright and Mark Paul-Clark</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Toll-like receptor 3</strong></td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Carty and Andrew Bowie</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Toll-like receptor 4</strong></td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Sabroe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Toll-like receptor 7 and 8 agonists</strong></td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanna Harant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Toll-like receptor 9 activation with CpG oligodeoxynucleotides for asthma therapy</strong></td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel N. Kline and Arthur M. Krieg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cytokines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>IL-5-directed approaches in the treatment of eosinophil-driven disease</strong></td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Marshall and Isidore Faiferman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monoclonal antibody therapy directed against interleukin-5 receptor α: MEDI-563</strong></td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roland Kolbeck, Masamichi Koike, Katsuhiro Kawasaki, Katsumasa Iwashita, George L. Spitalny, Nobuo Hanai, Peter A. Kiener, David Gossage, Nestor A. Molino and Anthony J. Coyle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IL-4- and IL-13-directed approaches</strong></td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Borish, John W. Steinke, Marion Kasaian and Samuel J. Goldman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>An anti-interleukin-13 receptor α1 antibody for the treatment of asthma</strong></td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Elena Fuentes and Karim Dabbagh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interleukin-7-directed approaches</strong></td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zaiba Shamim, Klaus Müller and Lars P. Ryder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monoclonal antibody therapy directed against interleukin-9: MEDI-528</strong></td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison A. Humbles, Jennifer L. Reed, Joseph Parker, Peter A. Kiener, Nestor A. Molino, Roland Kolbeck and Anthony J. Coyle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Targeting interleukin-17 in the lungs</strong></td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stefan Ivanov and Anders Lindén</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chemokines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chemokine CCR3 antagonists</strong></td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash Bahl, Brian Springthorpe and Rob Riley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Therapeutic potential of CCR4 antagonists</strong></td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Hall, Alison Ford and Simon Hodgson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phosphodiesterase type 4 (PDE4) inhibition: The search for effective</strong></td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>therapy with minimal side effects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Yeadon, Nick Clarke and Jon Ward</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Therapy directed against c-kit (CD117) and PDGF transmembrane</strong></td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>receptor tyrosine kinases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christoph Walker, David Rodman and Trevor T. Hansel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Syk kinase inhibitors</strong></td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Denyer and Vipul Patel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Targeting protein kinase C-θ for asthma</strong></td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divya Chaudhary, Diane H. Boschelli and Marion T. Kasaian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nucleic acid therapy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A multитargeted antisense therapy directed at CCR3 and the</strong></td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>common β-chain of IL-3/IL-5/GM-CSF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luc Paquet, Paolo Renzi, Nicolay Ferrari and Mark Parry-Billings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Author Index..................................................................................203

Subject Index..................................................................................204
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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*
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 β₂-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.