

Drug Bioavailability

Estimation of Solubility, Permeability,
Absorption and Bioavailability

Edited by

Han van de Waterbeemd and Bernard Testa

Second, Completely Revised Edition



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*Edited by
Han van de Waterbeemd
and Bernard Testa*

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Contents

List of Contributors	XIX
Preface	XXIII
A Personal Foreword	XXV

1	Introduction: The Why and How of Drug Bioavailability Research	1
	<i>Han van de Waterbeemd and Bernard Testa</i>	
1.1	Defining Bioavailability	1
1.1.1	The Biological Context	1
1.1.2	A Pharmacokinetic Overview	3
1.1.3	Specific Issues	3
1.2	Presentation and Layout of the Book	4
	References	6
Part One	Physicochemical Aspects of Drug Dissolution and Solubility	7
2	Aqueous Solubility in Drug Discovery Chemistry, DMPK, and Biological Assays	9
	<i>Nicola Colclough, Linette Ruston, and Kin Tam</i>	
2.1	Introduction	10
2.1.1	Definition of Aqueous Solubility	11
2.1.2	Aqueous Solubility in Different Phases of Drug Discovery	12
2.2	Aqueous Solubility in Hit Identification	12
2.2.1	Aqueous Solubility from DMSO Solutions	13
2.2.1.1	Turbidimetric Methods	14
2.2.1.2	UV Absorption Methods	15
2.2.1.3	Alternative Detection Methodology	17
2.2.1.4	Application of DMSO-Based Solubility Assays	18

2.3	Aqueous Solubility in Lead Identification and Lead Optimization	18
2.3.1	Dried-Down Solution Methods	20
2.3.2	Solubility from Solid	21
2.3.3	Thermodynamic Solubility Assays with Solid-State Characterization	22
2.3.4	Solubility by Potentiometry	24
2.3.5	Application of Thermodynamic Solubility Data in LI and LO	26
2.4	Conclusions	28
	References	28
3	Gastrointestinal Dissolution and Absorption of Class II Drugs	33
	<i>Arik S. Dahan and Gordon L. Amidon</i>	
3.1	Introduction	33
3.2	Drug Absorption and the BCS	34
3.3	Class II Drugs	36
3.4	GI Physiological Variables Affecting Class II Drug Dissolution	38
3.4.1	Bile Salts	38
3.4.2	GI pH	39
3.4.3	GI Transit	39
3.4.4	Drug Particle Size	40
3.4.5	Volume Available for Dissolution	41
3.5	<i>In Vitro</i> Dissolution Tests for Class II Drugs	41
3.5.1	Biorelevant Media	41
3.5.2	Dynamic Lipolysis Model	42
3.6	BCS-Based FDA Guidelines: Implications for Class II Drugs	43
3.6.1	Potential of Redefining BCS Solubility Class Boundary	43
3.6.2	Biowaiver Extension Potential for Class II Drugs	44
3.7	Conclusions	45
	References	45
4	<i>In Silico</i> Prediction of Solubility	53
	<i>Andrew M. Davis and Pierre Bruneau</i>	
4.1	Introduction	54
4.2	What Solubility Measures to Model?	54
4.3	Is the Data Set Suitable for Modeling?	56
4.4	Descriptors and Modeling Methods for Developing Solubility Models	58
4.5	Comparing Literature Solubility Models	59
4.6	What Is the Influence of the Domain of Applicability?	63
4.7	Can We Tell when Good Predictions Are Made?	65
4.8	Conclusions	65
	References	66

Part Two Physicochemical and Biological Studies of Membrane Permeability and Oral Absorption 69

5	Physicochemical Approaches to Drug Absorption	71
	<i>Han van de Waterbeemd</i>	
5.1	Introduction	73
5.2	Physicochemical Properties and Pharmacokinetics	74
5.2.1	DMPK	74
5.2.2	Lipophilicity, Permeability, and Absorption	74
5.2.3	Estimation of Volume of Distribution from Physical Chemistry	76
5.2.4	Plasma Protein Binding and Physicochemical Properties	76
5.3	Dissolution and Solubility	76
5.3.1	Calculated Solubility	78
5.4	Ionization (pK_a)	78
5.4.1	Calculated pK_a	79
5.5	Molecular Size and Shape	79
5.5.1	Calculated Size Descriptors	79
5.6	Hydrogen Bonding	80
5.6.1	Calculated Hydrogen-Bonding Descriptors	80
5.7	Lipophilicity	81
5.7.1	$\log P$ and $\log D$	81
5.7.2	Calculated $\log P$ and $\log D$	83
5.8	Permeability	84
5.8.1	Artificial Membranes and PAMPA	84
5.8.1.1	<i>In Silico</i> PAMPA	85
5.8.2	IAM, ILC, MEKC, and BMC	85
5.8.3	Liposome Partitioning	86
5.8.4	Biosensors	86
5.9	Amphiphilicity	86
5.10	Drug-Like Properties	87
5.11	Computation Versus Measurement of Physicochemical Properties	88
5.11.1	QSAR Modeling	88
5.11.2	<i>In Combo</i> : Using the Best of Two Worlds	89
5.12	Outlook	89
	References	89
6	High-Throughput Measurement of Physicochemical Properties	101
	<i>Barbara P. Mason</i>	
6.1	Introduction	102
6.2	Positioning of Physicochemical Screening in Drug Discovery	102
6.3	“Fit for Purpose” Versus “Gold Standard”	103
6.4	Solubility	104
6.4.1	“Thermodynamic” Versus “Kinetic”	104
6.4.2	Methods of Measuring High-Throughput Solubility	106

6.4.3	Supernatant Concentration	106
6.4.4	Measuring Solubility Across a pH Range	107
6.4.5	Supernatant Concentration Methods from Solid Material	109
6.4.6	Precipitate Detection	109
6.4.7	Other Methods of Measuring Solubility	110
6.5	Dissociation Constants, pK_a	110
6.5.1	Measuring pK_a	111
6.5.2	pK_a Measurements in Cosolvent Mixtures	112
6.5.3	pK_a Measurements based on Separation	113
6.6	Lipophilicity	115
6.6.1	$\log P$ Versus $\log D_{pH}$	115
6.6.2	Measuring Lipophilicity	116
6.6.3	High-Throughput $\log D_{7.4}$ Measurements	117
6.6.4	High-Throughput $\log D_{7.4}$ Versus Shake-Flask $\log D_{7.4}$	117
6.6.5	Alternative Methods for Determining High-Throughput $\log D_{pH}$	118
6.7	Permeability	119
6.7.1	Permeability and Lipophilicity	121
6.7.2	Cell-Based Assays	121
6.7.3	Noncell-Based Assays: Chromatographic Methods	122
6.7.4	Noncell-Based Assays: Parallel Artificial Membrane Permeability Assay	122
6.7.4.1	Membrane Composition	123
6.7.4.2	Suggestions for PAMPA	123
6.7.4.3	Considerations in the Calculation of Permeability from PAMPA Data	124
6.7.5	Sink Conditions	125
6.7.6	Unstirred Water Layer	126
6.7.7	Surface Properties for the Determination of Permeability	126
6.8	Data Interpretation, Presentation, and Storage	126
6.9	Conclusions	127
	References	127
7	An Overview of Caco-2 and Alternatives for Prediction of Intestinal Drug Transport and Absorption	133
	<i>Anna-Lena Ungell and Per Artursson</i>	
7.1	Introduction	134
7.2	Cell Cultures for Assessment of Intestinal Permeability	134
7.2.1	Caco-2	135
7.2.2	MDCK Cells	136
7.2.3	2/4/A1 Cells	137
7.2.4	Other Cell Lines	139
7.3	Correlation to Fraction of Oral Dose Absorbed	140
7.4	Cell Culture and Transport Experiments	141
7.4.1	Quality Control and Standardization	143

7.4.2	Optimizing Experimental Conditions: pH	144
7.4.3	Optimizing Experimental Conditions: Concentration Dependence	144
7.4.4	Optimizing Experimental Conditions: Solubility and BSA	145
7.5	Active Transport Studies in Caco-2 Cells	145
7.6	Metabolism Studies using Caco-2 Cells	146
7.7	Conclusions	147
	References	148

8 Use of Animals for the Determination of Absorption and Bioavailability 161

Chris Logan

8.1	Introduction	162
8.1.1	ADME/PK in Drug Discovery	162
8.1.2	The Need for Prediction	163
8.2	Consideration of Absorption and Bioavailability	163
8.3	Choice of Animal Species	167
8.4	Methods	168
8.4.1	Radiolabels	169
8.4.2	<i>Ex Vivo</i> Methods for Absorption	169
8.4.2.1	Static Method	169
8.4.2.2	Perfusion Methods	170
8.4.3	<i>In Vivo</i> Methods	170
8.5	<i>In Vivo</i> Methods for Determining Bioavailability	171
8.5.1	Cassette Dosing	171
8.5.2	Semisimultaneous Dosing	172
8.5.3	Hepatic Portal Vein Cannulation	173
8.6	Inhalation	173
8.7	Relevance of Animal Models	174
8.7.1	Models for Prediction of Absorption	174
8.7.2	Models for Prediction of Volume	175
8.8	Prediction of Dose in Man	176
8.8.1	Allometry	176
8.8.2	Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetics	176
8.8.3	Prediction of Human Dose	177
8.9	Conclusions	179
	References	179

9 *In Vivo* Permeability Studies in the Gastrointestinal Tract of Humans 185

Niclas Petri and Hans Lennernäs

9.1	Introduction	185
9.2	Definitions of Intestinal Absorption, Presystemic Metabolism, and Absolute Bioavailability	188
9.3	Methodological Aspects of <i>In Vitro</i> Intestinal Perfusion Techniques	190

9.4	Paracellular Passive Diffusion	193
9.5	Transcellular Passive Diffusion	196
9.6	Carrier-Mediated Intestinal Absorption	199
9.7	Jejunal Transport and Metabolism	202
9.8	Regional Differences in Transport and Metabolism of Drugs	208
9.9	Conclusions	209
	References	210

Part Three Role of Transporters and Metabolism in Oral Absorption 221

10	Transporters in the Gastrointestinal Tract	223
	<i>Pascale Anderle and Carsten U. Nielsen</i>	
10.1	Introduction	223
10.2	Active Transport Along the Intestine and Influence on Drug Absorption	228
10.2.1	Peptide Transporters	232
10.2.2	Nucleoside Transporters	233
10.2.3	Amino Acid Transporters	234
10.2.4	Monosaccharide Transporters	234
10.2.5	Organic Cation Transporters	235
10.2.6	Organic Anion Transporters	235
10.2.7	Monocarboxylate Transporters	235
10.2.8	ABC Transporters	235
10.2.9	Bile Acid Transporters	237
10.3	Transporters and Genomics	237
10.3.1	Introduction to Genomics Technologies	237
10.3.2	Gene Expression Profiling Along the Intestine and in Caco-2 Cells	238
10.3.2.1	Profiling of the Intestinal Mucosa	238
10.3.2.2	Profiling of Caco-2 Cells	240
10.3.3	Intestinal Transporters and the Influence of Genotypes	242
10.4	Structural Requirements for Targeting Absorptive Intestinal Transporters	245
10.4.1	Strategies for Increasing Drug Absorption Targeting Transporters	245
10.4.2	Changing the Substrate: SAR Established for PEPT1	247
10.4.3	Methods for Investigating Affinity and Translocation	248
10.4.4	Quantitative Structure–Activity Relations for Binding of Drug to Transporters	249
10.5	Transporters and Diseased States of the Intestine	251
10.5.1	Intestinal Diseases	251
10.5.2	Basic Mechanisms in Cancer and Specifically in Colon Carcinogenesis	252
10.5.2.1	Basic Mechanisms	252

10.5.2.2	Colon Cancer	253
10.5.3	Transporters and Colon Cancer	253
10.5.3.1	Transporters as Tumor Suppressor Genes	255
10.5.3.2	Role of Transporters in the Tumor–Stroma Interaction	255
10.5.3.3	Role of Transporters in Intestinal Stem Cells	258
10.5.4	Role of PEPT1 in Inflammatory Bowel Disease	259
10.6	Summary and Outlook	260
	References	261
11	Hepatic Transport	277
	<i>Kazuya Maeda, Hiroshi Suzuki, and Yuichi Sugiyama</i>	
11.1	Introduction	278
11.2	Hepatic Uptake	278
11.2.1	NTCP (<i>SLC10A1</i>)	279
11.2.2	OATP (<i>SLCO</i>) Family Transporters	279
11.2.3	OAT (<i>SLC22</i>) Family Transporters	281
11.2.4	OCT (<i>SLC22</i>) Family Transporters	284
11.3	Biliary Excretion	284
11.3.1	MDR1 (P-glycoprotein; <i>ABCB1</i>)	287
11.3.2	MRP2 (<i>ABCC2</i>)	287
11.3.3	BCRP (<i>ABCG2</i>)	289
11.3.4	BSEP (<i>ABCB11</i>)	290
11.3.5	MATE1 (<i>SLC47A1</i>)	290
11.4	Sinusoidal Efflux	290
11.4.1	MRP3 (<i>ABCC3</i>)	291
11.4.2	MRP4 (<i>ABCC4</i>)	291
11.4.3	Other Transporters	293
11.5	Prediction of Hepatobiliary Transport of Substrates from <i>In Vitro</i> Data	294
11.5.1	Prediction of Hepatic Uptake Process from <i>In Vitro</i> Data	294
11.5.2	Prediction of the Contribution of Each Transporter to the Overall Hepatic Uptake	295
11.5.3	Prediction of Hepatic Efflux Process from <i>In Vitro</i> Data	298
11.5.4	Utilization of Double (Multiple) Transfected Cells for the Characterization of Hepatobiliary Transport	299
11.6	Genetic Polymorphism of Transporters and Its Clinical Relevance	301
11.7	Transporter-Mediated Drug–Drug Interactions	305
11.7.1	Effect of Drugs on the Activity of Uptake Transporters Located on the Sinusoidal Membrane	305
11.7.2	Effect of Drugs on the Activity of Efflux Transporters Located on the Bile Canalicular Membrane	308
11.7.3	Prediction of Drug–Drug Interaction from <i>In Vitro</i> Data	309
11.8	Concluding Remarks	309
	References	311

12	The Importance of Gut Wall Metabolism in Determining Drug Bioavailability	333
	<i>Christopher Kohl</i>	
12.1	Introduction	334
12.2	Physiology of the Intestinal Mucosa	334
12.3	Drug-Metabolizing Enzymes in the Human Mucosa	336
12.3.1	Cytochrome P450	336
12.3.2	Glucuronyltransferase	337
12.3.3	Sulfotransferase	337
12.3.4	Other Enzymes	337
12.4	Oral Bioavailability	341
12.4.1	<i>In Vivo</i> Approaches to Differentiate Between Intestinal and Hepatic First-Pass Metabolism	342
12.4.2	<i>In Vitro</i> Approaches to Estimate Intestinal Metabolism	344
12.4.3	Computational Approaches to Estimate and to Predict Human Intestinal Metabolism	345
12.5	Clinical Relevance of Gut Wall First-Pass Metabolism	347
	References	347
13	Modified Cell Lines	359
	<i>Guangqing Xiao and Charles L. Crespi</i>	
13.1	Introduction	359
13.2	Cell/Vector Systems	360
13.3	Expression of Individual Metabolic Enzymes	363
13.4	Expression of Transporters	365
13.4.1	Efflux Transporters	365
13.4.2	Uptake Transporters	367
13.5	Summary and Future Perspectives	368
	References	368
Part Four	Computational Approaches to Drug Absorption and Bioavailability	373
14	Calculated Molecular Properties and Multivariate Statistical Analysis	375
	<i>Ulf Norinder</i>	
14.1	Introduction	377
14.2	Calculated Molecular Descriptors	377
14.2.1	2D-Based Molecular Descriptors	377
14.2.1.1	Constitutional Descriptors	378
14.2.1.2	Fragment- and Functional Group-Based Descriptors	378
14.2.1.3	Topological Descriptors	379
14.2.2	3D Descriptors	381
14.2.2.1	WHIM Descriptors	381
14.2.2.2	Jurs Descriptors	382
14.2.2.3	VolSurf and Almond Descriptors	383

14.2.2.4	Pharmacophore Fingerprints	384
14.2.3	Property-Based Descriptors	385
14.2.3.1	log P	385
14.2.3.2	HYBOT Descriptors	386
14.2.3.3	Abraham Descriptors	386
14.2.3.4	Polar Surface Area	386
14.3	Statistical Methods	387
14.3.1	Linear and Nonlinear Methods	388
14.3.1.1	Multiple Linear Regression	388
14.3.1.2	Partial Least Squares	389
14.3.1.3	Artificial Neural Networks	390
14.3.1.4	Bayesian Neural Networks	390
14.3.1.5	Support Vector Machines	390
14.3.1.6	k -Nearest Neighbor Modeling	392
14.3.1.7	Linear Discriminant Analysis	392
14.3.2	Partitioning Methods	393
14.3.2.1	Traditional Rule-Based Methods	393
14.3.2.2	Rule-Based Methods Using Genetic Programming	394
14.3.3	Consensus and Ensemble Methods	395
14.4	Applicability Domain	396
14.5	Training and Test Set Selection and Model Validation	398
14.5.1	Training and Test Set Selection	398
14.5.2	Model Validation	399
14.6	Future Outlook	400
	References	401
15	Computational Absorption Prediction	409
	<i>Christel A.S. Bergström, Markus Haeblerlein, and Ulf Norinder</i>	
15.1	Introduction	410
15.2	Descriptors Influencing Absorption	410
15.2.1	Solubility	411
15.2.2	Membrane Permeability	412
15.3	Computational Models of Oral Absorption	413
15.3.1	Quantitative Predictions of Oral Absorption	413
15.3.1.1	Responses: Evaluations of Measurement of Fraction Absorbed	417
15.3.1.2	Model Development: Data sets, Descriptors, Technologies, and Applicability	419
15.3.2	Qualitative Predictions of Oral Absorption	420
15.3.2.1	Model Development: Data sets, Descriptors, Technologies, and Applicability	420
15.3.2.2	An Example Using Genetic Programming-Based Rule Extraction	426
15.3.3	Repeated Use of Data Sets	427
15.4	Software for Absorption Prediction	427
15.5	Future Outlook	428
	References	429

- 16 *In Silico* Prediction of Human Bioavailability 433**
David J. Livingstone and Han van de Waterbeemd
- 16.1 Introduction 434
- 16.2 Concepts of Pharmacokinetics and Role of Oral Bioavailability 437
- 16.3 *In Silico* QSAR Models of Oral Bioavailability 438
- 16.3.1 Prediction of Human Bioavailability 438
- 16.3.2 Prediction of Animal Bioavailability 441
- 16.4 Prediction of the Components of Bioavailability 441
- 16.5 Using Physiological Modeling to Predict Oral Bioavailability 443
- 16.6 Conclusions 445
- References 446
-
- 17 Simulations of Absorption, Metabolism, and Bioavailability 453**
Michael B. Bolger, Robert Fraczekiewicz, and Viera Lukacova
- 17.1 Introduction 454
- 17.2 Background 454
- 17.3 Use of Rule-Based Computational Alerts in Early Discovery 456
- 17.3.1 Simple Rules for Drug Absorption (Druggability) 456
- 17.3.2 Complex Rules That Include Toxicity 473
- 17.4 Mechanistic Simulation (ACAT Models) in Early Discovery 474
- 17.4.1 Automatic Scaling of k'_a as a Function of P_{eff} , pH, log D, and GI Surface Area 477
- 17.4.2 Mechanistic Corrections for Active Transport and Efflux 478
- 17.4.3 PBPK and *In Silico* Estimation of Distribution 481
- 17.5 Mechanistic Simulation of Bioavailability (Drug Development) 481
- 17.5.1 Approaches to *In Silico* Estimation of Metabolism 484
- 17.6 Regulatory Aspects of Modeling and Simulation (FDA Critical Path Initiative) 484
- 17.7 Conclusions 485
- References 485
-
- 18 Toward Understanding P-Glycoprotein Structure–Activity Relationships 497**
Anna Seelig
- 18.1 Introduction 498
- 18.1.1 Similarity Between P-gp and Other ABC Transporters 498
- 18.1.2 Why P-gp Is Special 500
- 18.2 Measurement of P-gp Function 500
- 18.2.1 P-gp ATPase Activity Assay 500
- 18.2.1.1 Quantification of Substrate–Transporter Interactions 503
- 18.2.1.2 Relationship between Substrate–Transporter Affinity and Rate of Transport 504
- 18.2.2 Transport Assays 506

- 18.2.3 Competition Assays 508
- 18.3 Predictive *In Silico* Models 508
- 18.3.1 Introduction to Structure–Activity Relationship 509
- 18.3.2 3D-QSAR Pharmacophore Models 509
- 18.3.3 Linear Discriminant Models 510
- 18.3.4 Modular Binding Approach 511
- 18.3.5 Rule-Based Approaches 512
- 18.4 Discussion 513
- 18.4.1 Prediction of Substrate-P-gp Interactions 513
- 18.4.2 Prediction of ATPase Activity or Intrinsic Transport 513
- 18.4.3 Prediction of Transport (i.e., Apparent Transport) 513
- 18.4.4 Prediction of Competition 514
- 18.4.5 Conclusions 514
- References 514

Part Five Drug Development Issues 521

19 Application of the Biopharmaceutics Classification System Now and in the Future 523

Bertil Abrahamsson and Hans Lennernäs

- 19.1 Introduction 524
- 19.2 Definition of Absorption and Bioavailability of Drugs Following Oral Administration 527
- 19.3 Dissolution and Solubility 528
- 19.4 The Effective Intestinal Permeability (P_{eff}) 535
- 19.5 Luminal Degradation and Binding 539
- 19.6 The Biopharmaceutics Classification System 541
- 19.6.1 Regulatory Aspects 541
- 19.6.1.1 Present Situation 541
- 19.6.1.2 Potential Future Extensions 543
- 19.6.2 Drug Development Aspects 543
- 19.6.2.1 Selection of Candidate Drugs 544
- 19.6.2.2 Choice of Formulation Principle 545
- 19.6.2.3 *In Vitro/In Vivo* Correlation 547
- 19.6.2.4 Food–Drug Interactions 549
- 19.6.2.5 Quality by Design 552
- 19.7 Conclusions 552
- References 553

20 Prodrugs 559

Bernard Testa

- 20.1 Introduction 559
- 20.2 Why Prodrugs? 560
- 20.2.1 Pharmaceutical Objectives 560

20.2.2	Pharmacokinetic Objectives	561
20.2.3	Pharmacodynamic Objectives	564
20.3	How Prodrugs? 565	
20.3.1	Types of Prodrugs	565
20.3.2	Hurdles in Prodrug Research	567
20.4	Conclusions	568
	References	568
21	Modern Delivery Strategies: Physiological Considerations for Orally Administered Medications	571
	<i>Clive G. Wilson and Werner Weitschies</i>	
21.1	Introduction	571
21.2	The Targets	572
21.3	The Upper GI Tract: Mouth and Esophagus	573
21.3.1	Swallowing the Bitter Pill...	575
21.4	Mid-GI Tract: Stomach and Intestine	576
21.4.1	Gastric Inhomogeneity	576
21.4.2	Gastric Emptying	579
21.4.3	Small Intestinal Transit Patterns	581
21.4.4	Modulation of Transit to Prolong the Absorption Phase	582
21.4.5	Absorption Enhancement	582
21.5	The Lower GI Tract: The Colon	583
21.5.1	Colonic Transit	584
21.5.2	Time of Dosing	585
21.5.3	Modulating Colonic Water	586
21.6	Pathophysiological Effects on Transit	587
21.7	Pathophysiological Effects on Permeability	589
21.8	pH	589
21.9	Conclusions	590
	References	590
22	Nanotechnology for Improved Drug Bioavailability	597
	<i>Marjo Yliperttula and Arto Urtti</i>	
22.1	Introduction	597
22.2	Nanotechnological Systems in Drug Delivery	599
22.2.1	Classification of the Technologies	599
22.2.1.1	Nanocrystals	599
22.2.1.2	Self-Assembling Nanoparticulates	600
22.2.1.3	Processed Nanoparticulates	601
22.2.1.4	Single-Molecule-Based Nanocarriers	601
22.2.2	Pharmaceutical Properties of Nanotechnological Formulations	601
22.2.2.1	Drug-Loading Capacity	601
22.2.2.2	Processing	602
22.2.2.3	Biological Stability	602
22.3	Delivery via Nanotechnologies	603

22.3.1	Delivery Aspects at Cellular Level	603
22.3.2	Nanosystems for Improved Oral Drug Bioavailability	606
22.3.3	Nanosystems for Improved Local Drug Bioavailability	606
22.4	Key Issues and Future Prospects	608
	References	609

Index	613
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Preface

The processes involved in drug discovery have changed considerably in the past decade. Today we have access to the full human as well as several bacterial genomes offering a rich source of molecular targets to treat diseases. Methods in biology have moved to ultra-high-throughput screening (uHTS) of such precedented and unprecedented targets. Chemistry adapted to this progress by developing methods such as combinational and parallel synthesis allowing the rapid synthesis of hundreds to hundreds of thousands molecules in reasonable quantities, purities and timelines.

Historical data on the fate of potential drugs in development indicate that major reasons for attrition include toxicity, efficacy and pharmacokinetics/drug metabolism. Therefore, in today's drug discovery the evaluation of absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion (ADME) of drug candidates is performed early in the process. In the last 10 years drug metabolism and physicochemical *in vitro* screening methods have increasingly been introduced. In recent years these methods more and more became medium to high throughput in order to cope with increasing numbers of compounds to evaluate after HTS.

Although HTS seems to be a very efficient approach, it must be stressed that there is also a high cost associated with it. Interest is thus shifting to prediction and simulation of molecular properties, which might hopefully lead to overall more efficient processes.

The next vague of tools will be around computational or *in silico* ADME approaches. These will allow to include ADME into the design of combinational libraries, the evaluation of virtual libraries, as well as in selecting the most promising compounds to go through a battery of *in vitro* screens, possibly even replacing some of these experimental screens. Several of these computational tools are currently under development as will be discussed in this volume.

For reasons of convenience for the patient and compliance to the therapy, most drugs are administered orally. To keep the dose at the lowest possible level, high oral absorption and high bioavailability are prime properties to optimize in a new drug. Drug bioavailability is the outcome of a complex chain of events, and is among others influenced by the drug's solubility, permeability through the gastrointestinal wall, and its first pass gut wall and liver metabolism. Excluding liver metabolism, all

other factors are characterized by the term oral absorption. Permeability through the gut wall can be favoured or hindered through the effect of various transporter proteins such as P-glycoprotein. Our increased knowledge and understanding of all of these processes involved in permeability, oral absorption and bioavailability will make predictive tools more robust.

A previous volume in our series, edited in 2003 by Han van de Waterbeemd, Hans Lennernäs, and Per Artursson, was dedicated to summarize the current status in the estimation of relevant ADME parameters. This volume emerged as a top-seller in our series indicating the high impact of this topic in modern drug research.

Now, five years later, we are proud to present a complete revision, edited by Han van de Waterbeemd and Bernard Testa, which reflects the enormous developments in this research area. Few chapters were omitted and a new one on “Nanotechnology in Drug Discovery” was added. Some chapters were condensed and merged into others; some other chapters had to be split into two. The majority of chapters remained of high currency and were all comprehensively updated, some by the same and some by new authors such as the chapter on “Prodrugs” by Bernard Testa.

The series editors would like to thank Han van de Waterbeemd and Bernard Testa for their enthusiasm to put together this book and to work with such a fine selection of authors.

September 2008

Raimund Mannhold, Düsseldorf
Hugo Kubinyi, Weisenheim am Sand
Gerd Folkers, Zürich

A Personal Foreword

“Drug Bioavailability – Estimation of Solubility, Permeability, Absorption and Bioavailability” was published in 2003 under the editorship of H. van de Waterbeemd, H. Lennernäs and P. Artursson. The book met with such success that it had to be reprinted 4 times. But given the many and fast advances in the field, even this solution was no longer satisfactory. A second, fully revised edition was thus envisaged. Professors Lennernäs and Artursson having too many other commitments, Han van de Waterbeemd found himself alone for the task and approached his colleague and friend Bernard Testa. Having just completed the joint editorship of the 1100-page ADMET volume in “*Comprehensive Medicinal Chemistry II*”, we were happy to team up again in an exciting book project. Having decided on an updated content and a logical structure, it was clear that some chapters had to be split into two and rewritten to take latest advances into account. A few chapters could be condensed and merged into others, while yet other chapters remained of high currency and simply needed an in-depth updating. These changes in book structure and chapter contents implied a number of changes in authorship; we are grateful to contributors of the first edition and to our new authors for their enthusiastic cooperation. The final product is thus vastly different from the previous one and, we hope, will be found valuable by aficionados of the first edition as well as by new readers.

May 2008

Han van de Waterbeemd, Market Harborough, United Kingdom
Bernard Testa, Lausanne, Switzerland

1

Introduction: The Why and How of Drug Bioavailability Research

Han van de Waterbeemd and Bernard Testa

Abbreviations

ADME	Absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion
EMA	European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products
FDA	Food and Drug Administration (USA)
NCE	New chemical entity
PD	Pharmacodynamic(s)
P-gp	P-glycoprotein
PK	Pharmacokinetic(s)
R&D	Research and development

Symbols

AUC	Area under the plasma concentration versus time curve
CL	Total plasma clearance
C_{\max}	Maximum plasma concentration in blood
F	Fraction of administered dose that reaches the general circulation
M	Amount of drug that reaches the general circulation
t_{\max}	Time to reach C_{\max}

1.1

Defining Bioavailability

1.1.1

The Biological Context

Before presenting and explaining the content of this book, it is necessary to ponder the concept of bioavailability, more accurately termed oral bioavailability.