

PMF Book Review – June 2024

Industrial Pharmaceutical Microbiology - Quality Control. Tidswell, E. and R. Tirumalai (editors)
Euromed Communication/PDA Hardcopy 505pp 2024 Member Price \$269

It is welcomed news that the PDA has formed a partnership with Euromed Communications, Headley, Hants, UK and is roaring back into book publishing, providing expert material related to our industry. The PDA publication arm with their technical reports, flagship PDA Journal of Pharmaceutical Science & Technology, PDA Letter and books are continuously providing updated information to their membership. The editors Drs. Tidswell and Tirumalai are to be congratulated not only writing excellent chapters but assembling pharmaceutical experts from the U.S., Australia, and Europe as the authors of broad range of comprehensive chapters. They have encouraged some 20 recognized experts to share their insights on topics including microbial product testing, microbial identification, water and environmental monitoring, bacterial endotoxins, reference materials, laboratory assessments, disinfectant qualification, and biological indicators. As the title indicates, the book addresses the pharmaceutical segment of our industry. A companion book directed biopharmaceutical and gene and cell therapy manufacturing would be welcomed.

As a reader what I like, other than the diversity of authors, is that chapters provide a historic context, reference to section of regulatory and standard guidance documents anticipating the regulatory expectations and assemble useful material for the reader. It does not go unnoticed that members of past USP Microbiology Expert Committees are well represented as authors, which may be indicative of their continuing legacy, as they ride on their hobby horses into the sunset. Unfortunately, the delay from first writing the chapters to the publication has resulted in the most recent trends not being fully captured. As an author I took the opportunity to update my chapter on the role of water activity in control microbial contamination and found, since the publication of USP <922> *Water Activity*, a water activity requirement has been added to product monographs for gummies (chewable gels).

Chapters that especially captured my attention are Bacterial Endotoxins Testing (Karen McCullough), Medical Device Testing (Sarah Bennett), Reference Strains, Stock Cultures, and Passaging (David Myatt), and Biological Indicators (McCauley and Bradley).

I recommend that pharmaceutical microbiologists arrange to purchase this book as reference material.

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