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Edited by Domenico Spina, Clive P. Page, William J.Metzger and Brian J. O'Connor
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Drugs for the Treatment of Respiratory Diseases

Respiratory diseases affect millions of people each year and represent a major health burden around the world. This timely reference surveys and evaluates the drug treatments available for the main categories of lung diseases including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, cystic fibrosis, pulmonary vascular disease, lung cancer, and respiratory infections. The recent increase in asthma in certain populations underlines the importance of finding effective new treatments for these diseases. This publication, a comprehensive reference, is one of the first to survey current and novel drug treatments for this group of diseases. It is certain to establish itself as an essential source of reference for respiratory physicians, clinicians and clinical pharmacologists.

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Drugs for the Treatment of Respiratory Diseases

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Preface

In 1991, Jim Metzger and I edited a volume called *Drugs and the Lung*. A decade on, we thought that sufficient new information had been obtained to warrant a new book and this volume reflects the culmination of a considerable effort of many individuals including my new co-editors Dom Spina and Brian O'Connor, plus all the contributing authors. Lung diseases still represent a considerable burden to the healthcare system globally and have significant impact on the socio-economic situation in many countries around the world. The incidence of asthma continues to rise in many western countries with no cure in sight. Furthermore, tuberculosis, pulmonary infections and COPD are far from optimally controlled and not surprisingly therefore, there continues to be a considerable amount of interest in the development of novel therapies for a wider range of lung diseases. Perhaps, just as importantly, continual appraisal of optimal use of existing therapies continues with guidelines for the treatment of asthma and COPD now being commonplace in many western societies. This book represents a comprehensive collection of chapters regarding the current status of a wide range of drugs in use for the treatment of lung diseases, as well as providing an excellent overview of the many new drug classes under development. We have tried to ensure that, where possible, all chapters have a bias towards clinical information about drugs, but drawing on information from in vitro and animal studies where appropriate. We hope this book will be of interest to clinicians, scientists and students as a resource about drugs for the treatment of respiratory diseases.

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Tragically, my colleague and friend Jim Metzger died half-way through this project. Jim was an excellent mentor to me along with fellow editors and was responsible for teaching me a lot about allergy and clinical immunology. I share his tragic loss with his devoted family and many friends. Jim had contributed enormously to the field of lung diseases and we hope this book will help provide a lasting memory of him.

Clive P. Page
on behalf of all the editors
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