

## Preface to the fifth printed edition of *Pharmaceutical Substances*

Over the last few years many users of *Pharmaceutical Substances* asked the authors and the publisher for an updated print edition, as under some circumstances, a print edition would come in handier than a solely electronic version; this electronic version, which was launched in 2003, has since been – and will continue to be – constantly updated. Knowing that a new print edition would require much effort, we last year finally agreed to take on this challenge. Prof. Bernhard Kutscher and Dr. Dietmar Reichert continued to work especially hard on *Pharmaceutical Substances*. They therefore more than deserve to be promoted from “co-authors” to “authors” of both this fifth printed edition and the electronic version.

The fourth edition of this book was published seven years ago and is in many aspects outdated. Since 2001, many changes have taken place on the pharmaceutical market. Many new NCEs were launched. Well-known companies and vendors disappeared or changed their names, and new companies or company names have appeared on the scene. A vast number of brand names disappeared or changed, drugs were withdrawn or sold to another vendor, and last but not least, many drugs became generic after their patents expired.

A few random examples may illustrate these changes. Vendor names that disappeared from the pharmaceutical market include ASTA Medica, Altana, Beecham, Boehringer Mannheim, Byk Gulden, Carter Wallace, Ciba–Geigy, Fujisawa, Hoechst, ICI, Knoll, Searle, Upjohn. New vendor names include Actelion, Astellas, Celgene, Cephalon, Daiichi Sankyo, Gilead, Intendis, MEDA Pharma, Medpointe Pharmaceuticals, mibe, RIEMSER, et al.

As a consequence of the aforementioned changes, 165 new monograph entries were added, the existing monographs were completely revised (syntheses schemes, patents, literature, etc.), the medical use information was harmonized wherever possible, and countless changes to trade names and vendor names were made. For the convenience of our users, it was our aim to return to a printed edition in one volume. The focus of this fifth edition is on the most important drugs in terms of volume and sales, excluding biopharmaceuticals. Due to the continued availability and updates of the electronic version, we decided not to describe in the print edition drugs that were withdrawn from all of the six markets we are referring to, as well as those drugs, which have become much less commercially important or are quite trivial (such as salicylamide, salicylic acid, phenol, etc.) and to highlight key intermediates in the electronic version only. The alphabetical list of monographs at the beginning of this book lists all active pharmaceutical ingredients (“APIs”) covered in the electronic version, while those that made it into this book are printed in bold. We are convinced that these measures will greatly increase the utility of the book, used as a stand-alone resource as well as in combination with the electronic version.

This fifth printed edition contains about 1300 APIs. When it comes to the information provided about a given drug, no fundamental changes were made in comparison to the previous printed editions.

We hope that this standard reference book will continue to serve the needs of specialists in drug synthesis and manufacturing, as well as a broad user group in the chemical, intermediates and pharmaceutical industry, pharmacists, universities, and other research institutes. We sincerely believe that this current issue will greatly assist readers in teaching as well as in solving problems at work.

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We are very grateful to the many readers who kindly provided us with proposals for corrections and improvements. The authors are deeply indebted to Ingo Adamczyk, Ulrich Quandt and Martin Holberg from the FIZ CHEMIE BERLIN, for their invaluable contributions to the preparation process of this book. We also would like to thank Dr. Thomas Krimmer from Georg Thieme Verlag for the always excellent and fruitful cooperation. A special thank you goes to our Japanese friend and colleague Nobuo Kumagai, who provided us with the trade name information for the Japanese market.

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