

Medicinal and Environmental Chemistry: Experimental Advances and Simulations

PART 2

Editors:

**Tahmeena Khan
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Medicinal and Environmental Chemistry: Experimental Advances and Simulations (Part II)

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD	i
PREFACE	ii
LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS	iv
CHAPTER 1 AIR POLLUTION AND ITS IMPACT ON RESPIRATORY HEALTH	1
<i>Surya Kant</i>	
INTRODUCTION	1
MAJOR AIR POLLUTANTS	3
TYPES AND SOURCES OF AIR POLLUTION	3
Primary Air Pollutants	3
Secondary Air Pollutants	4
AIR POLLUTION CAN BE OF TWO TYPES	4
SECOND-HAND SMOKE	4
PARTICULATE MATTER (PM)	5
NATIONAL AIR QUALITY INDEX	6
OZONE (O₃)	7
CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)	8
NITROGEN OXIDES (NOX)	8
SULFUR DIOXIDE (SO₂)	8
LEAD	8
IMPACT OF AIR POLLUTION ON HEALTH	9
PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION	12
STRATEGIES AND SOLUTION	13
PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA	13
PLANTATION	13
CONCLUDING REMARKS	14
Suggestions of the Author to Combat Air Pollution	14
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	14
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	14
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	14
REFERENCES	14
CHAPTER 2 CYTOCHROME P450 AND HEALTH HAZARDS OF SMOG	18
<i>Amber Rizvi</i>	
INTRODUCTION	18
TYPES OF SMOG	19
HEALTH HAZARDS OF SMOG	20
CYTOCHROME P450	20
DISEASES CAUSED BY SMOG AND ITS EFFECT ON CYPS	22
Myocardial Infarction (MI)	22
Mechanism of Cardiotoxicity of Air Pollutants	23
Role of CYPs in MIs	23
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	24
CYPs and COPD	25
Atopic Dermatitis (Eczema)	26
CYPs and Atopic Dermatitis	27
Coughing	27
CYPs and Coughing	28
Experimental Work Done on CYP	28

CONCLUDING REMARKS	29
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	30
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	30
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	30
REFERENCES	30
CHAPTER 3 PHARMACEUTICAL AND MODELLING INTERVENTIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION RELATED CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE	32
<i>Tahmeena Khan, Alfred J. Lawrence, Iqal Azad, Shalini Dixit and Saman Raza</i>	
INTRODUCTION	33
INFLUENCING FACTORS FOR INITIATION AND MODULATION	33
COPD AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH COMMON AIR POLLUTANTS: A WORLDWIDE PERSPECTIVE	34
COPD AND ITS STATUS IN INDIA	35
MECHANISTIC ACTION OF COPD- THE CHEMICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL APPROACH	36
OXIDATIVE STRESS	36
PROTEASE-ANTIPROTEASE IMBALANCE	37
ROLE OF MEDIATORS	37
DRUG AND PHARMACOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT	38
Tissue and Systematic Inflammation	38
PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTIONS	38
Corticosteroids	38
Bronchodilators	39
SABA (Short-acting Inhaled Beta-agonists)	39
SABA & SAMA (Short-acting Muscarinic Antagonist) Combination Bronchodilators	39
Long-Acting Bronchodilators	39
Combination Therapies	40
Combination of Corticosteroids and Long-acting Bronchodilators	40
Triple Therapy	41
Combination of Inhaled Corticosteroids and Two Long-acting Bronchodilators (Triple Therapy)	41
Other Options	41
Drawbacks and Need for System Medicinal Approach	41
Simulated Medicinal Modeling and its Significance	42
COMPUTATIONAL MEDICINAL SIMULATION FOR COPD TREATMENT	43
Computational Lung Modelling	43
Multiscale Modelling	44
Mechanistic Models	45
Machine Learning Models	45
Statistical models	46
COPD and Advancement in Modelling	46
COPD Progression Modelling	46
Experimental vs. Computational medicinal modelling	47
LIMITATIONS AND NEED FOR FUTURE ADVANCEMENT	48
CONCLUDING REMARKS	49
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	50
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	50
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	50
REFERENCES	50

CHAPTER 4 ARSENIC TOXICITY OF GROUNDWATER AND ITS REMEDIATION FOR DRINKING WATER	58
<i>Seema Joshi</i>	
INTRODUCTION	58
ESSENTIAL METALS	59
NON-ESSENTIAL METALS	59
CONCEPT OF TOXICITY	59
1. Solubility of the Metal Complexes	60
2. Oxidation State of the Metal	60
3. Ligand Attached to the Metal Atom	60
DETECTION OF METALS	61
TREATMENT FOR POISONING	61
ROLE OF METALS IN BIOLOGY	61
SOURCES OF ARSENIC	63
POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN EXPOSURE WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS TO UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA	63
Districts at High Risk	64
District at Moderate Risk	64
MECHANISMS OF TOXICITY	65
CONSEQUENCES OF TOXICITY	65
REMEDICATION OF ARSENIC TOXICITY	66
CHELATING DRUGS USED IN THE TREATMENT OF ARSENIC POISONING	68
1. Dimercaprol (BAL)	68
2. Dimercaptosuccinic Acid (DMSA)	69
3. 2,3-Dimercapto-1-propanesulfonic Acid (DMPS)	69
4. Penicillamine	70
CHALLENGES OF CHELATION THERAPY	70
CASE STUDY FOR THE REMOVAL OF ARSENIC	71
CHEMICALS AND REAGENTS	71
PREPARATION OF FERRIC HYDROXIDE	71
REMOVAL OF ARSENIC FROM SPIKED TAP WATER USING FERRIC HYDROXIDE	72
PREPARATION OF IRON COATED CHARCOAL/SAND	72
EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN	72
CHARCOAL TREATMENT	72
Iron Coated Charcoal Treatment	73
Iron Coated Coarse Sand Treatment	73
DETERMINATION OF ARSENIC	73
FINDINGS OF THE STUDY	73
CONCLUDING REMARKS	76
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	76
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	76
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	76
REFERENCES	76
CHAPTER 5 STUDIES ON POLYMERIC CERAMIC COMPOSITE MEMBRANES FOR WATER TREATMENT	82
<i>Fakhra Jabeen, Qazi Inamur Rahman and Miad Ali Siddiq</i>	
INTRODUCTION	82
WATER POLLUTION	84
PARAMETERS OF POLLUTION	85
MAIN SOURCES OF POLLUTANTS	86

MEMBRANES AND THEIR CLASSIFICATION	88
Synthetic Membrane	88
Biological Membrane	89
Organic Membranes	89
Inorganic Membrane	89
Metallic Membranes	90
Ceramic Membranes	90
Micro-Porous Membranes	90
Meso-Porous Membranes	91
Macro Porous Membranes	91
APPLICATIONS OF CERAMIC MEMBRANES	97
Chemical Industry	97
Metal Industry/Surface Engineering	97
Textiles/Pulp and Paper Industry	98
Food and Beverages	98
Recycling and the Environment	98
POLYETHERSULFONE MEMBRANE CHARACTERISTICS AND ITS TYPES	100
DESALINATION FOR WATER TREATMENT	102
TYPES OF DESALINATION PROCESSES	104
ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF DIFFERENT DESALINATION PROCESSES	105
CONCLUDING REMARKS	110
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	111
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	111
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	111
REFERENCES	111
CHAPTER 6 CHEMOSENSORS FOR ANIONS OF BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RELEVANCE	115
<i>Shweta Agarwal</i>	
INTRODUCTION	115
Biological Significance of Anions	116
Important Techniques for Detection of Anions	118
Ion Chromatography (IC)	118
Capillary Electrophoresis (CE)	118
Chemosensors	119
Optical Chemosensors for Anions	120
<i>Challenges in Development of Chemosensors</i>	120
Sensing Mechanisms of Chemosensors	122
Binding Site-Signalling Subunit Approach	122
Displacement Approach	123
Chemodosimeter Approach	123
Optical (Colourimetric and Fluorescence) Chemosensors for Anions	123
Optical Anion Sensing by Discrete molecules	124
Hydrogen Bond Chemosensors	124
Halogen Bond Chemosensors	126
Boron Based Lewis Acid Chemosensors	127
Metal Complexes as Chemosensors	128
Anion- π Chemosensors	130
Chemosensors Based on Electrostatic Interactions	131
Chemodosimeters	131

Optical Sensing by Molecular Assemblies	133
CONCLUDING REMARKS	134
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	134
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	135
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	135
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	135
REFERENCES	135
CHAPTER 7 ANTIBIOTIC POLLUTION: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES	141
<i>Saman Raza and Tahmeena Khan</i>	
INTRODUCTION	141
MECHANISM OF ACTION OF ANTIBIOTICS	144
i. Inhibition of Bacterial Cell Wall Synthesis	144
ii. Inhibition of Bacterial Protein Synthesis	145
iii. Disruption of Cell Membranes	145
iv. Inhibition of Nucleic Acid Synthesis	145
v. Antimetabolite Activity	145
USES OF ANTIBIOTICS	146
ANIMAL FARMING	146
AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES	146
AQUACULTURE	146
ANTIBIOTIC POLLUTION	147
EFFECTS OF ANTIBIOTIC POLLUTION	148
EFFECT OF ANTIBIOTIC POLLUTION ON HEALTH: ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE ...	149
EFFECTS OF ANTIBIOTIC POLLUTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT	150
STRATEGIES TO COUNTER ANTIBIOTIC POLLUTION AND RESISTANCE	151
A. Methods for the Reduction of Antibiotic Pollution	151
1. Removal of Antibiotic Residues from Water	151
2. Reduction in the Use of Antibiotics	152
B. Methods to Counter Antibiotic Resistance	154
1. Adjuvant Therapy	154
2. Development of New Antibiotics	158
CONCLUDING REMARKS	160
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	160
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	160
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	161
REFERENCES	161
CHAPTER 8 ANALYTICAL ADVANCEMENT FOR PHARMACEUTICALS	
QUANTIFICATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATRICES	166
<i>Anushka Pandey, Manisha Bhateria and Sheelendra Pratap Singh</i>	
INTRODUCTION	167
Analytical Methods for the Determination of Pharmaceutical Residues in the Environment	168
Sample Preservation	169
i. Filtration	169
ii. Non-acidic Preservative Agent	169
iii. Acidifying Agents	170
Sample Preparation	171
i. Liquid-Liquid Extraction (LLE)	171
ii. Dispersive Liquid-liquid Microextraction (DLLME)	174
iii. Solid – Phase Extraction (SPE)	176
iv. Solid-Phase Micro Extraction (SPME)	179

v. <i>Stir- bar Sorptive Extraction (SBSE)</i>	181
Chromatographic Techniques for Pharmaceuticals Analysis	183
Analysis of Pharmaceutical Compounds by Gas Chromatography (GC)	183
Analysis of Pharmaceutical Compounds by Liquid Chromatography (LC)	186
Methods Used for the Analysis of Pharmaceuticals in Different Environmental Analysis	187
CONCLUDING REMARKS	193
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	193
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	193
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	193
REFERENCES	193
CHAPTER 9 USE OF BIOISOSTERIC FUNCTIONAL GROUP REPLACEMENTS OR MODIFICATIONS FOR IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	198
<i>Nidhi Singh and Jaya Pandey</i>	
INTRODUCTION	198
BIOISOSTERISM - DIRECT EFFECT ON ENVIRONMENT	199
BIOISOSTERIC MODIFICATIONS FOR ANTHRANILIC DIAMIDES	200
BIOISOSTERIC MODIFICATIONS AT AROMATIC BRIDGED AMIDE FUNCTIONAL GROUP	200
BIOISOSTERIC MODIFICATIONS AT ALIPHATIC AMIDE FUNCTIONAL GROUPS	203
BIOISOSTERIC MODIFICATIONS FOR ORGANOCHLORINES	205
BIOISOSTERISM - INDIRECT EFFECT ON ENVIRONMENT	206
BIOISOSTERIC MODIFICATIONS FOR DIARYLPYRIMIDINE DERIVATIVES	207
BIOISOSTERIC MODIFICATIONS FOR CARBOHYDRATES	208
SOME IMPORTANT EXAMPLES OF BIOISOSTERIC FUNCTIONAL GROUP MODIFICATIONS FOR IMPROVED ENVIRONMENT	211
1. Ivacaftor	211
2. Tetrabenazine	211
3. JNJ-38877605	212
4. SCH-48461	212
5. Etofenprox	213
6. Trifluoromethyl Ketone	213
7. Pulegone	214
8. Efavirenz	215
9. Iloprost	215
10. L-158809	216
CONCLUDING REMARKS	216
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	217
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	217
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	217
REFERENCES	217
CHAPTER 10 GOLD AND SILVER NANOPARTICLE SYNTHESIS BY PYRUS AND EURYA: ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY THERAPEUTIC AGENTS	220
<i>Dhara Shukla and Padma S. Vankar</i>	
INTRODUCTION	221
MATERIAL AND METHODS	223
Material Collection	223
Instrumentation	223
Preparation of Bio-Extract	224
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	224

Morphological Identification of Gold and Silver Nanoparticles Produced by Eurya acuminate Leaves	226
Effect of the Presence of Metal Ions on Nanoparticle formation	228
Biomedical or Therapeutic Applications Involving Gold and Silver NPs	229
CONCLUDING REMARKS	231
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	232
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	233
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	233
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	233
REFERENCES	233
CHAPTER 11 NOVEL DRUG DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES- A CASE STUDY WITH SARS-COV-2	238
<i>Iqbal Azad, Tahmeena Khan, Mohammad Irfan Azad and Abdul Rahman Khan</i>	
INTRODUCTION	238
FACTORS AFFECTING THE SPREAD OF SARS-COV-2	239
Environmental Factors	239
Food Materials, Handlers, and Packaging	240
Water and Wastewater	240
Air	241
Insects	241
Medicinal Intervention: The Scope of Virtual Screening	242
<i>Structure-based Virtual Screening (SBVS)</i>	242
<i>Ligand-based Virtual Screening (LBVS)</i>	242
In-silico Approaches	243
LIGAND SELECTION CRITERION AS PHARMACEUTICAL LEADS	243
LIPINSKI'S RULE OF FIVE	243
GHOSE FILTER	244
VEBER'S RULES	244
MDDR-LIKE RULES	244
CMC LIKE RULES	245
WDI-LIKE RULES	245
BAYER FILTER	245
RULE OF THREE	245
WEIGHTED AND UNWEIGHTED QED	245
DRUG REPURPOSING	246
DRUG REPURPOSING ADVANTAGES	246
DRUG CANDIDATE SELECTION	247
DETECTION OF TARGETS FOR DRUGS AND THEIR MECHANISM OF ACTION	247
MOLECULAR DOCKING	247
TYPES OF MOLECULAR DOCKING	248
FLEXIBLE DOCKING	248
FLEXIBLE DOCKING: CHALLENGES AND REQUIREMENTS	248
RIGID DOCKING: CHALLENGES AND REQUIREMENTS	249
MOLECULAR DOCKING STUDIES OF PLANT-BASED ACTIVE CONSTITUENTS IN SEARCH OF A LEAD MOLECULE TO COMBAT SARS-COV-2	249
Role of Immunity	249
PLANT-BASED RESOURCES AS NATURAL IMMUNITY BOOSTERS	250
GINGER (ZINGIBER OFFICINALE)	250
GARLIC (ALLIUM SATIVUM L.)	252
GREEN TEA (CAMELLIA SINENSIS)	252

PURPLE CONEFLOWER (ECHINACEA)	253
BLACK CUMIN (NIGELLA SATIVA)	253
CITRUS FRUITS	253
MOLECULAR DOCKING STUDIES WITH SOME BIOACTIVE CONSTITUENTS OF	
CITRUS FRUITS	254
SOFTWARES USED	254
THE OPEN READING FRAME (ORF)	255
TARGET PROTEINS	255
Polyproteins (Proteases)	255
SPIKE (S) PROTEIN	255
NUCLEOCAPSID (N) PROTEIN	255
ENVELOPE (E) PROTEIN	256
M-PROTEIN	256
SARS-COV HELICASE	256
PREPARATION OF THE RECEPTOR FOR DOCKING	257
PREPARATION OF LIGANDS FOR DOCKING	257
AUTODOCK VINA	258
IGEMDOCK	258
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	259
CONCLUDING REMARKS	261
CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION	261
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	261
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	261
REFERENCES	261
SUBJECT INDEX	268

FOREWORD

In recent years, our environment has deteriorated at an alarming rate. Be it the air we breathe, the water we drink, or the food we eat—the hazards are hitting closer to home. Consequently, there has been a deluge of diseases and disorders associated with environmental pollution, industrialization, lifestyle changes, etc. From cardiovascular diseases and growth defects to neurological disorders and stress, these environmental diseases have been coupled with other environmental threats like pollution, climate change, food shortage, and novel infections and have made the study of environmental chemistry indispensable in present times. In the development of more effective and safer therapies that would cater to diseases both old and new, the study of medicinal chemistry is vital to determine accurate knowledge of drugs, their structure, synthesis, pharmacology, and pharmacokinetics.

Environmental diseases have brought about a close association between these two branches of chemistry as well as pharmaceutical chemistry. It gives me great pleasure that this book brings them together on one platform. This book aims to provide a better comprehension of environmental problems as well as remedial strategies to amend them and includes an assorted collection of topics presented by experts from academia, research, and development.

I think that the authors can be confident that readers will gain a broader perspective of the disciplines of environmental chemistry, medicinal chemistry, and pharmaceutical chemistry as a result of their efforts.

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PREFACE

With the drastic disturbance in environmental harmony and balance, there has been a rise in global deaths and diseases, calling for the exploration of novel remediation strategies for innovative drug action mechanisms and target identification. The fine balance between human and ecological health is getting disturbed, leading to serious implications including the occurrence of new pathogens and diseases, including the novel corona virus SARS-CoV-2, being the most recent instance having gripped the entire globe.

Environmental diseases are non-communicable and are caused by chronic exposure to toxic pollutants. Other contributory causes of environmental diseases include radiation, pathogens, allergens, and psychological stress. Their increasing occurrence is due to industrialization, changes in farming protocols, and the increase in exposure to chemicals released into the environment. Lifestyle changes, including the increased use of tobacco and processed foods also greatly contribute to the environmental/lifestyle diseases burden.

Though medicinal chemistry and environmental chemistry have been widely explored separately, yet their close association and interdependence have been overlooked. By exploring the association between these two focal areas, the present book aims to provide solutions and curative strategies for the well-being of humans and the environment.

The twenty-one chapters included in the book are focused on diverse topics trying to blend the fields of environmental chemistry and medicinal chemistry and have been authored by expert scientists and academicians from renowned institutions. A wide range of topics has been explored in the book, to make it relevant to environmental chemists and students. The chapters have been designed to introduce environmental contaminants and techniques for their quantification and removal. Also, a medicinal perspective for remediation of environmental hazards, from therapeutic strategies available to the design of new and safer drugs, is introduced through experimental and simulation approaches.

Specialized chapters have been dedicated to persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals, antibiotics, and plastics, which have become a major source of pollution, along with their remediation. The biochemical aspect of Cytochrome P₄₅₀ and its association with mitigation strategy upon the exposure of smog on the human body, the effect of environmental xenoestrogens on human health, and the potential of natural curing agents to combat ecotoxicity have also been explored. Experimental techniques like the use of quantification methods for pharmaceuticals and persistent organic pollutants, chemosensors and polymeric ceramic composite membranes, and the concept of nanotechnology for the synthesis and use of gold and silver nanoparticles from plant-based sources have also been elaborated. To further elaborate on the importance of safe chemical practise, the concept of green chemistry has been introduced.

As we are aware that drug discovery for a particular disease is a time taking endeavour, therefore, a few chapters have also been dedicated to *in-silico* predictions like molecular docking and virtual models for biological properties, the software used and their utility to make futuristic and accurate predictions to make drug discovery efficient, quicker and cost-effective. Chapters summarizing the advances of biomolecular simulations for drug designing with respect to ecotoxicity, drug degradation, use of bioisosteric groups, and advances in pharmaceutical and modelling interventions for the treatment of COPD are also included. An interesting chapter has also explained the ligand identification for effective drug development through virtual screening by taking the example of COVID-19.

The book will prove beneficial for academicians, students of environmental chemistry and pharmacy, researchers, scientists, computational chemists, pharmacologists, environmentalists, policymakers, and postgraduate students. It would also provide researchers and medicinal chemists, information about the latest research done and the modern techniques used to develop more effective and safer drugs that would not be harmful to the environment. In this way, the proposed book would be highly beneficial to the audience it hopes to cater to.

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Studies on Polymeric Ceramic Composite Membranes for Water Treatment

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Abstract: Environmental chemistry is the study of chemical processes occurring in the environment for understanding the diverse issues related to human health and resource conservation. These significant effects may be felt on a global scale, through the presence of water pollutants or toxic substances arising from chemical waste. The increasing world population, rapid industrialization, and human activities have resulted in higher water demand throughout the world. The fast spread of contamination problems worldwide and their effects on the natural resources of water led to the evolution of environmental chemistry. This evolution relies on the different membranes technology to facilitate the scientific investigations on the contamination extent and optimize remediation efforts. Polymeric ceramic composite membranes comprise a captivating field of membrane separation technology. Rapid development and innovation have been done in the modification of these membranes. These membranes have superiority in terms of high temperature and chemical resistance, higher chemical, and mechanical stability, and have higher longevity. All these outstanding features have made these membranes ideal for water treatment and desalination applications. This chapter is a review of the development, and the use of polymer composite membranes in treating wastewater. A brief description of synthesizing these membranes through different routes is given and is reviewed critically.

Keywords: Ceramic membrane, Desalination, Polymer, Sol-gel process, Water treatment.

INTRODUCTION

Water is the main source of life; from being the basis of human survival to the economic development of a country. One of the major issues our society faces today is the shortage of fresh water. Increasing global population, periodical

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