Introduction: Pharmaceuticals and Drug Delivery

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This theme issue of *AAPS PharmSci* is primarily intended to capture the contents of presentations made at the AAPS Pharmaceuticals and Drug Delivery Conference held in April 2002. This meeting was the first conference sponsored by AAPS to focus on bringing to participants the latest information in the fields of drug delivery technology and pharmaceuticals. The scientific presentations made at the meeting, and the follow up articles appearing in this issue represent the leading edge of pharmaceutical sciences. This journal issue is therefore also intended to provide a state-of-the-science synopsis of some of the problems facing pharmaceutical scientists today, as well as the approaches being investigated as possible solutions to those problems. As drug discovery processes have evolved in recent years, it has become increasingly common that the physicochemical and biopharmaceutical properties of new drug candidates are such that the development of bioavailable and stable dosage forms can be difficult. In many organizations pharmaceuticals has become an integral component of the drug discovery process, so as to improve the properties of drug candidates entering development, reduce the failure rate of drugs in development and to improve the efficiency of development. And drug delivery has never had as important a role in bringing new medicines to patients, and in improving the effectiveness, safety, or compliance of older medicines, as now. Drug delivery technologies are constantly evolving and improving to breach the biological barriers separating drugs from their target sites.

Just as the range of topics relevant to the pharmaceutical sciences has broadened, the scope of the topics covered in this issue is broad, ranging from traditional physical pharmacy to the most recent advances in materials sciences and engineering, covering traditional dosage form development as well as the most specialized delivery systems for genes, proteins, and other challenging compounds. It is hoped that this issue of *AAPS PharmSci* will provide a useful tool for pharmaceutical scientists to broaden their knowledge of the diverse areas of pharmaceuticals and drug delivery, and to gain an in depth understanding of the current status of specific technology areas.

Manuscript submissions are invited for this issue, particularly from speakers and poster presenters at the 2002 Pharmaceuticals and Drug Delivery Conference. Topics in the issue include, but are not limited to:

- Drug candidate form selection
- Preformulation
- Oral drug delivery
- Properties of solids
- Formulation
- Drug carriers
- Parenterals
- Overcoming barriers to delivery

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