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Nikolaos Labrou
Editor

Therapeutic Enzymes: Function and Clinical Implications

 Springer

Editor

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Preface

Nowadays, the application of enzymes as pharmaceuticals is a growing field. Enzymes as pharmaceuticals have two fascinating features that distinguish them from all other types of drugs. First, enzymes bind their substrate with high affinity and specificity. Second, enzymes can convert their substrate to the desired products. These two features make enzymes valuable therapeutic tools, as, unlike common medicinal products which can temporarily solve the particular health problems, they address the underlying cause of health problem and the patient can achieve permanent relief. All these attributes make the enzymes potent drugs offering a platform and promising subcategory of modern biopharmaceuticals for the treatment of several severe diseases. Research and drug development efforts and the advancements in biotechnology over the past 20 years have greatly assisted the introduction of efficient and safe enzyme-based therapies for a range of both rare and common disorders. The introduction and regulatory approval of 20 different recombinant enzymes has enabled effective enzyme replacement therapy.

This volume aims to overview selected therapeutic enzymes, focusing in particular on more recently approved enzymes produced by recombinant DNA technology. It is impossible for a single book volume to cover all of the different aspects of this research area in which scientists have made significant progress. Thus, I have selected key examples covering a wide range of diverge scientific disciplines and state-of-the-art approaches, in order to provide the reader with a representative sample of the current status of the area. This volume highlights and provides an overview and recent progress on the three aspects of recombinant therapeutic enzymes and their clinical and pharmaceutical technology: (i) overview of the production process and biochemical characterization of therapeutic enzymes, (ii) focuses upon the engineering strategies and delivery methods of therapeutic enzymes, and (iii) clinical applications of selected therapeutic enzymes, including aspects on their mechanisms of action and information on safety and immunogenicity issues and various adverse events of the enzymes used for therapy.

This book is aimed at academics, researchers, and students undertaking advanced undergraduate/postgraduate programs in the biopharmaceutical/biotechnology area who wish to gain a comprehensive understanding of enzyme-based therapeutic molecules.

I sincerely hope that the readers will enjoy the information provided in this book and find its contents interesting and scientifically stimulating. I also hope that I have established a successful compilation of chapters within the

exciting area of therapeutic enzymes. I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to all contributing authors for their enthusiasm and for the time they spent preparing the chapters for this book. Thanks also to those at Springer who have helped put this together so that it ultimately provides an invaluable resource to all those working in the field of therapeutic enzymes. I would especially like to thank my family for their understanding and patience during the editing and organization of the book chapters.

Athens, Greece

Nikolaos Labrou

Contents

1	Production and Purification of Therapeutic Enzymes	1
	M. Ângela Taipa, Pedro Fernandes, and Carla C. C. R. de Carvalho	
2	Production of Therapeutic Enzymes by Lentivirus Transgenesis.	25
	María Celeste Rodríguez, Natalia Ceaglio, Sebastián Antuña, María Belén Tardivo, Marina Etcheverrigaray, and Claudio Prieto	
3	Quality Control and Downstream Processing of Therapeutic Enzymes.	55
	David Gervais	
4	X-Ray Crystallography in Structure-Function Characterization of Therapeutic Enzymes.	81
	Anastassios C. Papageorgiou	
5	Application of Fluorescence in Studying Therapeutic Enzymes	105
	Zhaoshuai Wang, Caihong Li, and Yinan Wei	
6	Key Physicochemical Characteristics Influencing ADME Properties of Therapeutic Proteins	115
	Xing Jing, Yan Hou, William Hallett, Chandrasah G. Sahajwalla, and Ping Ji	
7	Stability of Therapeutic Enzymes: Challenges and Recent Advances	131
	Shubhrima Ghosh, Shahenvaz Alam, Anurag S. Rathore, and S. K. Khare	
8	Engineering Strategies for Oral Therapeutic Enzymes to Enhance Their Stability and Activity	151
	Philipp Lapuhs and Gregor Fuhrmann	
9	Enzymes in Metabolic Anticancer Therapy	173
	Maristella Maggi and Claudia Scotti	
10	Alkaline Phosphatase Replacement Therapy.	201
	Maria Luisa Bianchi and Silvia Vai	

11 Enzybiotics: Enzyme-Based Antibacterials as Therapeutics	233
Dorien Dams and Yves Briers	
12 Clinical Applications of Hyaluronidase	255
Gregor Cornelius Weber, Bettina Alexandra Buhren, Holger Schrupf, Johannes Wohlrab, and Peter Arne Gerber	
13 Alkaline Phosphatase Replacement Therapy for Hypophosphatasia in Development and Practice	279
S. A. Bowden and B. L. Foster	
14 Rational Use of Pancreatic Enzymes for Pancreatic Insufficiency and Pancreatic Pain	323
Gyanprakash A. Ketwaroo and David Y. Graham	
15 Fibrinolytic Enzymes for Thrombolytic Therapy	345
Swaroop S. Kumar and Abdulhameed Sabu	
Index	383