

Preface

Arguably, neglected disease drug discovery has a number of hurdles that differentiate the arena relative to conventional programmes. Notwithstanding the very challenging targets that kill and debilitate large numbers of people across the world, resistance to treatment is often a recurring problem, and the funds available for research, development and to pay for treatment are limited. Such thinking is the basis of this volume.

This book seeks to aid both researchers and lay folk, by summarising the key learning to date and also by giving a clear overview of the challenges that remain. In *Neglected Diseases and Drug Discovery*, most of the key diseases that fall into this class are detailed. The book sets out to make a critical appraisal of ongoing research with a focus on the key science that has led to breakthroughs, especially from a medicinal chemistry perspective. Our intention is that the following chapters can serve as a useful guidebook to ongoing and new drug discovery efforts in this field.

The book seeks to cover in some depth current efforts in the malaria, trypanosomatid, flavivirus and tuberculosis fields, wherein an upsurge in research efforts has been evident in recent times. Additionally, there is some focus on the 'neglected' neglected diseases, notably diarrhoea, helminths, HIV (in worldwide terms) and lower respiratory tract infections. In these latter areas we seek to highlight the pressing need for better and more widely available treatments.

Our utmost appreciation goes to the authors who have given their precious time in order to share their experiences and make this account a reality.

Mike Palmer
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