

BIOANALYSIS OF PHARMACEUTICALS

Sample Preparation, Separation Techniques
and Mass Spectrometry

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Table of Contents

[Cover](#)

[Title Page](#)

[Copyright](#)

[Contributing Authors](#)

[Preface](#)

[Chapter 1: Introduction](#)

[1.1 What Is Bioanalysis?](#)

[1.2 What Is the Purpose of Bioanalysis, and Where Is It Conducted?](#)

[1.3 Bioanalysis Is Challenging](#)

[1.4 The Different Sections of This Textbook](#)

[Chapter 2: Physicochemical Properties of Drug Substances](#)

[2.1 Bioanalysis in General](#)

[2.2 Protolytic Properties of Analytes](#)

[2.3 Partitioning of Substances](#)

[2.4 Stereochemistry](#)

[2.5 Peptides and Proteins](#)

[Chapter 3: Biological Samples: Their Composition and Properties, and Their Collection and Storage](#)

[3.1 Introduction](#)

[3.2 Blood, or Whole Blood](#)

[3.3 Plasma and Serum](#)

[3.4 Urine](#)

[3.5 Feces](#)

[3.6 Saliva](#)

[3.7 Cerebrospinal Fluid](#)

[3.8 Synovial Fluid](#)

[3.9 Hair and Nails](#)

[3.10 Tissue \(Biopsies\)](#)

[Chapter 4: General Chromatographic Theory and Principles](#)

[4.1 General Introduction](#)

[4.2 General Chromatographic Theory](#)

[4.3 Theory of Partition](#)

[4.4 Retention](#)

[4.5 Separation Efficiency](#)

[4.6 Resolution](#)

[4.7 Selectivity](#)

[4.8 The Separation Process](#)

[4.9 Chromatographic Principles](#)

[4.10 Reversed Phase Chromatography](#)

[4.11 Size Exclusion Chromatography \(SEC\)](#)

[4.12 Ion Exchange Chromatography](#)

[4.13 Chiral Separations](#)

[Chapter 5: Quantitative and Qualitative Chromatographic Analysis](#)

[5.1 Collection of Chromatographic Data](#)

[5.2 Quantitative Measurements](#)

[5.3 Calibration Methods](#)

[5.4 Validation](#)

[5.5 Qualitative Analysis](#)

[Chapter 6: Sample Preparation](#)

[6.1 Why Is Sample Preparation Required?](#)

[6.2 What Are the Main Strategies?](#)

[6.3 Protein Precipitation](#)

[6.4 Liquid-Liquid Extraction](#)

[6.5 Solid-Phase Extraction](#)

[6.6 Dilute and Shoot](#)

[6.7 What Are the Alternative Strategies?](#)

[Chapter 7: High-Performance Liquid Chromatography \(HPLC\) and High-Performance Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry \(LC-MS\)](#)

[7.1 Introduction](#)

[7.2 The Solvent Delivery System](#)

[7.3 Degassing and Filtering of Mobile Phases](#)

[7.4 Injection of Samples](#)

[7.5 Temperature Control](#)

[7.6 Mobile Phases](#)

[7.7 Stationary Phases and Columns](#)

[7.8 Detectors](#)

[7.9 Mass Spectrometric Detection](#)

[Chapter 8: Gas Chromatography \(GC\)](#)

[8.1 Basic Principles of GC](#)

[8.2 GC Instrumentation](#)

[8.3 Carrier Gas](#)

[8.4 Stationary Phases](#)

[8.5 Separation Selectivity in GC](#)

[8.6 Columns](#)

[8.7 Injection Systems](#)

[8.8 Detectors](#)

[8.9 Derivatization](#)

[8.10 Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry \(GC-MS\)](#)

[Chapter 9: Analysis of Small-Molecule Drugs in Biological Fluids](#)

[9.1 Plasma and Serum Samples](#)

[9.2 Whole Blood Samples](#)

[9.3 Dried Blood Spots](#)

[9.4 Urine Samples](#)

[9.5 Saliva](#)

[References](#)

[Chapter 10: Analysis of Peptide and Protein Drugs in Biological Fluids](#)

[References](#)

[Chapter 11: Regulated Bioanalysis and Guidelines](#)

[11.1 Introduction](#)

[11.2 The Evolution of Regulated Bioanalysis](#)

[11.3 Bioanalytical Method Validation](#)

[11.4 Pre-study Validation](#)

[11.5 In-Study Validation](#)

[11.6 Documentation](#)

[11.7 Regulatory Requirements to Bioanalysis](#)

[11.8 Quality Systems in Regulated Bioanalysis](#)

[Index](#)

[End User License Agreement](#)

List of Illustrations

Chapter 1: Introduction

[Figure 1.1 Effects of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics on the dose-response relationship](#)

Chapter 2: Physicochemical Properties of Drug Substances

[Figure 2.1 Ionization of acids and bases as a function of pH](#)

[Figure 2.2 Distribution of an analyte A between an upper organic phase and a lower aqueous phase](#)

[Figure 2.3 Chemical structures of ibuprofen and salicylic acid with log P and pKa values](#)

[Figure 2.4 Classification of isomers](#)

[Figure 2.5 The chemical structure of cis-clophenxol and trans-resveratrol](#)

[Figure 2.6 Enantiomeric drug compounds](#)

[Figure 2.7 A drug substance with several chiral centers](#)

[Figure 2.8 General structure of amino acid, including its chiral C-atom and the charge-pH dependency of amino acids](#)

[Figure 2.9 Structure of gonadorelin including three-letter abbreviation](#)

[Figure 2.10 Overview of the different protein structure levels](#)

[Figure 2.11 Acetylation and amidation of terminal amino acids in a polypeptide chain](#)

Chapter 3: Biological Samples: Their Composition and Properties, and Their Collection and Storage

[Figure 3.1 Whole blood after centrifugation](#)

[Figure 3.2 Whole blood sample in its collection vial](#)

[Figure 3.3 Sampling for dried blood spot](#)

[Figure 3.4 Containers for urine collection](#)

[Figure 3.5 Collection of saliva using a cotton bud](#)

Chapter 4: General Chromatographic Theory and Principles

[Figure 4.1 Schematic presentation of a chromatographic separation](#)

[Figure 4.2 A schematic chromatogram showing relevant parameters](#)

[Figure 4.3 A Gaussian peak with relevant parameters assigned](#)

[Figure 4.4 Peak-to-valley ratio between two not fully resolved peaks](#)

[Figure 4.5 Peak broadening due to eddy diffusion](#)

[Figure 4.6 Illustration of mass transfer between the mobile and stationary phases](#)

[Figure 4.7 Illustration of mass transfer in the mobile and stationary phases](#)

[Figure 4.8 A schematic presentation of the van Deemter plot showing the optimum efficiency \(at minimum H\) and the optimum flow rate, u](#)

[Figure 4.9 Silanol groups: \(1\) free \(isolated\) silanol, \(2\) germinal silanols, and \(3\) associated silanols on the surface of silica](#)

[Figure 4.10 Chromatogram of hydroxyatrazin before \(showing strong tailing\) and after addition of a carboxylic acid to the mobile phase. HPLC system: column silica 120 mm × 4.6 mm, 5 μm, with dichloromethane + methanol \(95:5 v/v\) as mobile phase without and with propionic acid added](#)

[Figure 4.11 Retention factor of opiates obtained on unmodified silica versus the polarity of the mobile phase. Opiates: +, codeine; ○, morphine; v,](#)

normorphine; □, noscapine; Δ, papaverine; and •, thebaine

Figure 4.12 Derivatization of silica with a chlorosilane reagent

Figure 4.13 C18 column packing material (A) before and (B) after end capping with trimethylchlorosilane

Figure 4.14 Polystyrene-divinylbenzene copolymer

Figure 4.15 Hydrophobic interactions between the hydrocarbon chain of C18 material and the hydrophobic parts of naproxen

Figure 4.16 Chromatogram of two analytes with different sizes of side chain. The separation was obtained using reversed phase chromatography

Figure 4.17 Example of solvent selectivity. Separation of 7 test solutes on a C18 reversed phase HPLC column using (a) methanol or (b) acetonitrile as organic modifier. (1) benzylalcohol; (2) acetophenone; (3) phenylethanol; (4) propiophenone; (5) anisole; (6) toluene; and (7) p-cresol

Figure 4.18 Viscosity of mixtures of water and organic solvents. EtOH, ethanol; THF, tetrahydrofuran; MeOH, methanol; MeCN, acetonitrile

Figure 4.19 Variation of the retention factor, k , for a weak acid and a weak base as a function of pH in the mobile phase

Figure 4.20 Separation selectivity at high and low pH. Separation is achieved using gradient elution on an ACE UltraCore 2.5 μm Super C18, 50 mm \times 2.1 mm column. (a) At pH 3.0, an acetonitrile gradient containing ammonium formate pH 3.0 was used. (b) At pH 10.7, an acetonitrile gradient containing 18

[mM ammonia pH 10.7 was used. Sample: \(1\) atenolol; \(2\) methylphenylsulfoxide; \(3\) eserine; \(4\) prilocaine; \(5\) bupivacaine; \(6\) tetracaine; \(7\) 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-1-naphthol; \(8\) carvedilol; \(9\) nitrobenzene; \(10\) methdilazine; \(11\) amitriptyline; and \(12\) valerophenone. Reproduced with permission of Advanced Chromatography Technologies Ltd, UK \(info@ace-hplc.com/www.ace-hplc.com\).](#)

[Figure 4.21 Structures of the ions octanesulfonate, heptafluorobutyrate, and tetrabutylammonium](#)

[Figure 4.22 Liquid chromatography \(LC\) versus size exclusion chromatography \(SEC\) and the calibration curve for SEC](#)

Chapter 5: Quantitative and Qualitative Chromatographic Analysis

[Figure 5.1 A chromatographic peak at the limit of quantification](#)

[Figure 5.2 An example of a quantitative determination calibration curve](#)

[Figure 5.3 Chromatograms showing the use of internal standards \(IS\). \(a\) An example where the internal standard is separated from the analyte. \(b\) An example where the internal standard is an isotopically labeled analyte and the two compounds are measured by mass spectrometry \(MS\) at to different mass-to-charge ratios \(m/z\) values](#)

[Figure 5.4 The standard addition calibration curve](#)

[Figure 5.5 Parameters to be validated in a bioanalytical method](#)

[Figure 5.6 Chromatograms of bromohexine and its metabolites in urine using \(a\) ultraviolet and \(b\) radiochemical detection](#)

[Figure 5.7 High-performance liquid chromatography-ultraviolet-mass spectrometry-nuclear magnetic resonance \(HPLC-UV-MS-NMR\) system for metabolite identification](#)

Chapter 6: Sample Preparation

[Figure 6.1 Principle of protein precipitation](#)

[Figure 6.2 96-well protein precipitation](#)

[Figure 6.3 Principle of liquid-liquid extraction](#)

[Figure 6.4 Distribution ratio \(\$\log D\$ \) for ibuprofen \(acidic drug substance\) between 1-octanol and aqueous solution as function of pH](#)

[Figure 6.5 Distribution ratio \(\$\log D\$ \) for amitriptyline \(basic drug substance\) between 1-octanol and aqueous solution as function of pH](#)

[Figure 6.6 Overview of molecular interactions in liquid-liquid extraction](#)

[Figure 6.7 Principle of supported liquid extraction](#)

[Figure 6.8 Principle of solid-phase extraction](#)

[Figure 6.9 \(a\) Photo and \(b\) illustration of a solid-phase extraction \(SPE\) column. A broad range of SPE columns are commercially available, with different masses and chemistries of the stationary phase](#)

[Figure 6.10 Conditioning and solvation of a solid-phase extraction stationary phase](#)

[Figure 6.11 Solid-phase extraction columns and vacuum manifold](#)

[Figure 6.12 Different stationary phases for reversed-phase solid-phase extraction](#)

[Figure 6.13 Example of polymeric solid-phase extraction stationary phase](#)

[Figure 6.14 Secondary interactions in solid-phase extraction](#)

[Figure 6.15 Overview of some stationary phases for ion exchange solid-phase extraction](#)

[Figure 6.16 Retention of amphetamine on a strong cation exchange solid-phase extraction column](#)

[Figure 6.17 Retention of amphetamine on a mixed-mode solid-phase extraction column](#)

[Figure 6.18 Polymeric-based stationary phase for mixed-mode solid-phase extraction](#)

[Figure 6.19 Overview of some stationary phases for normal-phase solid-phase extraction](#)

[Figure 6.20 Photo of a solid-phase extraction 96-well plate](#)

[Figure 6.21 Dilute and shoot](#)

[Figure 6.22 Principle of dialysis](#)

[Figure 6.23 Schematic drawing of a microdialysis probe](#)

[Figure 6.24 Schematic drawing of an immunosorbent](#)

[Figure 6.25 Schematic overview of molecularly imprinted polymer production](#)

[Figure 6.26 Schematic drawing of an oligosorbent](#)

[Figure 6.27 Illustration of a fiber-solid-phase microextraction device](#)

[Figure 6.28 Schematic illustration of a supported liquid membrane extraction process exemplified by a basic analyte](#)

Chapter 7: High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) and High-Performance Liquid Chromatography-

Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS)

[Figure 7.1 Main structure of a liquid chromatography system](#)

[Figure 7.2 The main parts in a piston pump](#)

[Figure 7.3 Isocratic and gradient elution of a sample containing analytes with large differences in retention](#)

[Figure 7.4 A two-position, six-port injection valve in the load position \(a\) and in the inject position \(b\).](#)

[Figure 7.5 Octadecylsilylsilica \(ODS column packing material\) for reversed phase chromatography.](#)

[Figure 7.6 The development in column packing materials](#)

[Figure 7.7 Height equivalent to a theoretical plate as a function of the flow rate of the mobile phase for 1.5, 3.5, 5, and 10 \$\mu\text{m}\$ particles](#)

[Figure 7.8 Effect of the reduction in particle size and column length and the analysis time and chromatographic separation](#)

[Figure 7.9 Effect of particle diameter \(\$\mu\text{m}\$ \) and internal column diameter \(\$\emptyset\$ \) on peak signal with identical injection volume](#)

[Figure 7.10 The electromagnetic spectrum, showing the connection between frequency and wavelength](#)

[Figure 7.11 Diagram illustrating light excitation of electron](#)

[Figure 7.12 Diagram illustrating electronic states in fluorescence](#)

[Figure 7.13 Schematic diagram of a single wavelength UV detector \(left\) and a diode array.](#)

detector (right).

Figure 7.14 Sketch of flow cell in a UV detector

Figure 7.15 Schematic diagram of a fluorescence detector

Figure 7.16 Excitation and emission spectra of quinine

Figure 7.17 Oxidation of catecholamines release electrons that are detected by the electrochemical detector

Figure 7.18 Typical setup of a liquid chromatography-mass spectrometer (LC-MS) system

Figure 7.19 Choosing the right interface depends on the analyte size and the polarity

Figure 7.20 Schematic representation of the electrospray and the formation of ions

Figure 7.21 (a) Protonated haloperidol (thus positively charged) having $[M + H]^+ = 376.14$; and (b) deprotonated acetylsalicylic acid (thus negatively charged) having $[M - H]^- = 179.04$

Figure 7.22 Angiotensin II consists of eight amino acids, and three of them can be positively charged (gray boxes). The mass of angiotensin II is 1045.53; adding three protons makes up a mass of 1048.53 and will be detected like $[M + 3H]^{3+} = 349.51$. Adding two protons makes up a mass of 1046.53 and will be detected like $[M + 2H]^{2+} = 523.77$

Figure 7.23 Atmospheric pressure chemical ionization with gas molecular reactions

Figure 7.24 Protonated epitestosterone gives rise to m/z 289 ($= [M + H]^+$) in the mass spectrum (m/z 290 and 291 are isotopes).

Figure 7.25 Atmospheric pressure photo-ionization with the three types of ionization

Figure 7.26 The high velocity of electrons (initiated by a spark) caused by a frequency of 30-40 MHz of the coil causes argon gas to ionize. In this way, a plasma at high temperature is created

Figure 7.27 Three mass spectra with increasing mass resolution

Figure 7.28 (a) Ions move from the source toward the detector in the z-direction. Only the stable oscillating ions will reach the detector (black line). Unstable ions will collide with one of the quadrupoles (gray line). (b) x/y view of the quadrupole. The electrical field applied is composed of a DC component (U) and an RF component ($V\cos \omega t$).

Figure 7.29 Schematic representation of a triple quadrupole mass spectrometer

Figure 7.30 The ion trap consists of a ring electrode and two end-cap electrodes (a). On the right (b), from top to bottom: ions enter the ion trap and are cooled down by He (white dots). After the ions are trapped, they are scanned out of the ion trap. Light ions leave the trap before the heavier ones

Figure 7.31 The linear ion trap consists of three quadrupole-like electrodes where the first and last quadrupoles are coupled to a direct voltage with the same polarity. An ion trap field is created within the second quadrupole

Figure 7.32 (a) Linear time-of-flight mass analyzer. Heavy ions (largest circles) travel slower than lighter ions (smallest circles). The velocity of the ions traveling through the field-free flight tube thus correlates with the m/z value. (b) In a reflectron ToF

mass analyzer, all ions are deflected by a reflectron to reach higher resolution and mass accuracy by a longer flight path

Figure 7.33 Schematic representation of ion mobility spectrometry. The drift tube consists of several focusing rings, creating an electric field that is opposite in direction to the drift gas flow

Figure 7.34 (a) Electrical signal measured in ion cyclotron resonance or an orbitrap mass analyzer. (b) Signal is decomposed in all the frequencies. (c) Separate frequencies of three masses, where
 $m/z_3 < m/z_2 < m/z_1$

Figure 7.35 Detectors used in mass spectrometry: (a) electron multiplier, (b) microchannel plate, and (c) Faraday cup

Figure 7.36

Figure 7.37 General principle of tandem mass spectrometry. Step 1: mass selection; step 2: collision-induced dissociation; and step 3: fragment measurement

Figure 7.38

Figure 7.39 A chromatogram is a collection of points, and each point represents a mass spectrum. In this example, only four mass spectra are shown

Figure 7.40 Centroid scan (a) and profile scan (b) of protonated lidocaine

Figure 7.41

Figure 7.42 (a) Extracted ion chromatogram of metoprolol obtained with a low-resolution mass spectrometer; and (b) extracted ion chromatogram of

[metoprolol obtained with a high-resolution mass spectrometer](#)

[Figure 7.43 Base peak chromatogram showing four peaks of four different substances with their respective mass spectra and signal intensities](#)

[Figure 7.44 Full scan and selected ion monitoring from same-drug analysis](#)

[Figure 7.45 Postextraction addition approach to estimate the effect of the matrix on the analysis](#)

[Figure 7.46 Postcolumn infusion approach to estimate the effect of the matrix on the analysis. The chromatogram shows: \(a\) the continuous signal of drug X infused by the syringe pump; \(b\) the continuous signal of drug X infused by the syringe pump after injecting a blank extracted biological sample in the HPLC system; and \(c\) the signal of drug X injected in the HPLC system. The gray areas indicate the time ranges with signal disturbances](#)

[Figure 7.47 Chromatograms of time-resolved analyte and two deuterated internal standards](#)

Chapter 8: Gas Chromatography (GC)

[Figure 8.1 Schematic illustration of a gas chromatograph](#)

[Figure 8.2 Photograph of a gas chromatograph](#)

[Figure 8.3 Illustration of an isothermal and temperature programmed gas chromatography](#)

[Figure 8.4 Isothermal versus temperature programming in gas chromatography analysis of n-alkanes](#)

[Figure 8.5 van Deemter plots with different carrier gases](#)

Figure 8.6 The basic skeleton of polydimethylsiloxane, polyphenylmethylsiloxane, and polycyanopropylmethylsiloxane. The numbers of repeating units (*n*, *p*, and *x*) can vary significantly form one stationary phase to another

Figure 8.7 The basic skeleton of polyethylene glycol

Figure 8.8 Split or splitless injector for a capillary gas chromatograph

Figure 8.9 Schematic illustration of a flame ionization detector

Figure 8.10 Schematic illustration of a nitrogen-phosphorous selective detector

Figure 8.11 Schematic illustration of an electron capture detector

Figure 8.12 Silylation of a hydroxyl group

Figure 8.13 Derivatization of an α -amino acid with trifluoroacetic acid anhydride and methanol

Figure 8.14 Electron ionization (upper reaction) and one major fragmentation (lower reaction) during gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) of chlorambucil

Figure 8.15 EI mass spectrum of chlorambucil

Figure 8.16 Mass spectrum (electron ionization) of (a) amphetamine and (b) lysergide (lysergic acid diethylamide, or LSD)

Figure 8.17 Magnified mass spectrum for chlorambucil in the mass range of 250-310

Figure 8.18 Mass spectrum (electron ionization) of morphine (an analgesic drug). The signal at mass 286 corresponds to molecular ions with one ^{13}C -atom

(M+1)[±], and 285 corresponds to the actual molecular mass of the compound (M)[±]

Figure 8.19 Isotope patterns of chlorine (one and two atoms) and bromine (one and two atoms). Two mass units between each peak

Figure 8.20 Mass spectrum (electron ionization) of p-amino-benzoic acid

Figure 8.21 Mass spectrum (electron ionization) of bromazepam

Figure 8.22 Mass spectrum (electron ionization) of clonazepam

Figure 8.23 Mass spectra (electron ionization and chemical ionization) of amphetamine

Figure 8.24 Total ion current chromatogram (TIC) and mass spectrum for component 3 in a mixture of four components

Figure 8.25 Selected ion chromatogram (mass 286) for gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) analysis of human plasma. N-desmethyloclobazam eluted into the mass spectrometer at 9.5 minutes (retention time) and formed ions with mass 286, resulting in the peak observed in the selected ion chromatogram. Plasma samples contain a large number of other substances, but these do not appear because the ionization or fragmentation does not form ions with mass 286

Figure 8.26 Calibration curve for the quantitative determination of N-desmethyloclobazam in plasma based on six standard solutions with different concentrations of N-desmethyloclobazam

Chapter 9: Analysis of Small-Molecule Drugs in Biological Fluids

[Figure 9.1](#)

[Figure 9.2](#)

[Figure 9.3 Photo of dried blood spots \(DBS\) on specially manufactured absorbent filter paper \(a DBS card\).](#)

Chapter 10: Analysis of Peptide and Protein Drugs in Biological Fluids

[Figure 10.1](#)

[Figure 10.2](#)

[Figure 10.3](#)

[Figure 10.4](#)

[Figure 10.5](#)

[Figure 10.6 Chromatogram of a digested enfuvirtide standard. Peak A, C, and E represent the measured product peptides A, C, and E described in this chapter.](#)

[Figure 10.7](#)

[Figure 10.8](#)

[Figure 10.9](#)

[Figure 10.10](#)

[Figure 10.11](#)

Chapter 11: Regulated Bioanalysis and Guidelines

[Figure 11.1 Level of method characterization during the process of development of a new drug. The level of method characterization increases dramatically after the drug candidate has been selected for development and remains hereafter constant from the first regulated toxicological studies in the early preclinical development phase throughout the clinical](#)

development phase. CS = candidate selection, TKs = toxicokinetics, and FIM = first in man

List of Tables

Chapter 1: Introduction

Table 1.1 Therapeutic range of common drugs subjected to therapeutic drug monitoring

Chapter 2: Physicochemical Properties of Drug Substances

Table 2.1

Table 2.2 Energy in bonds or of intermolecular forces

Table 2.3 Amino acid abbreviations and key properties

Chapter 4: General Chromatographic Theory and Principles

Table 4.1 The relationship between α and the number of N needed to obtain a resolution of 1.5

Table 4.2 Relationship between the retention factor, k , and the efficiency, N

Table 4.3 Mobile phases with similar eluting strength

Table 4.4 pKa values (25 °C) of buffer compounds frequently used in HPLC

Table 4.5 Derivatization of an enantiomeric analyte with a chiral reagent

Chapter 6: Sample Preparation

Table 6.1 Different approaches to protein precipitation

[Table 6.2 Frequently used liquid-liquid extraction solvents and their physiochemical properties](#)

[Table 6.3 Kamlet and Taft solvatochromic parameters \(\$\alpha\$, \$\beta\$, and \$\pi^*\$ \) for selected solvents](#)

Chapter 7: High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) and High-Performance Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS)

[Table 7.1 UV cut-off for common solvents \(1 cm path length\)](#)

[Table 7.2 Effect of column length and particle size on column efficiency \(\$N\$ \)](#)

[Table 7.3 Some typical high-performance liquid chromatography columns and the corresponding eluent consumption](#)

[Table 7.4 Some commercial available liquid chromatography detectors commonly used in bioanalysis and their typical performance](#)

Chapter 8: Gas Chromatography (GC)

[Table 8.1 Masses and occurrence of stable isotopes](#)

[Table 8.2 Typical fragmentations from the molecular ion](#)

Chapter 11: Regulated Bioanalysis and Guidelines

[Table 11.1 Elements of a Method Validation](#)

Bioanalysis of Pharmaceuticals

Sample Preparation, Separation Techniques, and Mass Spectrometry

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Preface

The field of bioanalysis is very broad, complex, and challenging, and therefore writing an introductory textbook in this field is a difficult task. From our point of view, a good introductory student textbook is limited in the number of pages, discusses the different principles and concepts clearly and comprehensively, and contains many relevant and educational examples. Given these criteria, we have narrowed our focus on bioanalysis. First, we have limited our discussion to the chemical analysis of *pharmaceuticals* that are present in biological fluids. The focus is directed toward substances that are administered as human drugs, including low-molecular drug substances, peptides, and proteins. Endogenous substances are not discussed. Second, the discussion of different analytical methods has been limited to those based on *chromatography* and *mass spectrometry*. Certainly, different immunological methods are also used, but teaching all the principles and applications of chromatographic, mass spectrometric, and immunological methods was too ambitious to meet our criteria for a good introductory student textbook.

The present book is the first introductory student textbook on chromatography and mass spectrometry of pharmaceuticals present in biological fluids, highlighting an educational presentation of the principles, concepts, and applications. We discuss the chemical structures and properties of low- and high-molecular pharmaceuticals, the different types of biological samples and fluids that are used, how to prepare the samples by extraction, and how to perform the final analytical measurement by use of chromatography and mass spectrometry. Many examples illustrate the theory and applications, and the examples

discuss all practical aspects, including the calculations. Thus, in this textbook, you will even learn how to convert the numbers recorded by the instrument to the concentration of the actual drug substances in the biological sample.

Bioanalysis is an applied scientific discipline, and this represents another challenge in terms of writing an introductory student textbook. University professors are well trained in teaching the basic principles. However, bioanalysis is mainly performed outside the university by researchers in the pharmaceutical industry, in contract laboratories, and in hospital laboratories. Thus, the researchers outside the university have the best overview of the most important applications and techniques in practical use. To address this, both university professors and researchers from the pharmaceutical industry have authored this textbook. Hopefully, this has resulted in a textbook that reflects bioanalysis in the year 2015. The authors have been in close contact with colleagues for advice, and we would especially like to thank Elisabeth Leere Øiestad for fruitful discussions.

The present textbook is intended for the fourth- or fifth-year university pharmacy or chemistry student. Reading the textbook requires basic knowledge in organic chemistry and biochemistry, as well as in analytical chemistry. With respect to the latter, we have given priority to discuss the analytical techniques in a fundamental and educational frame, and detailed knowledge on instrumental analytical methods is not required prior to reading this textbook.

Good luck with the reading!

Oslo and Copenhagen, June 2014
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Chapter 1

Introduction

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Welcome to the field of bioanalysis! Through reading of this textbook, we hope you get fascinated by the world of bioanalysis, and also we hope that you learn to understand that bioanalysis is a highly important scientific discipline. In this chapter, five fundamental questions are raised and briefly discussed as an introduction to the textbook: (i) What is bioanalysis? (ii) What is the purpose of bioanalysis? (iii) Where is bioanalysis conducted? (iv) Why do you need theoretical understanding and skills in bioanalysis? And (v) how do you gain the understanding and the skills from reading this textbook?

1.1 What Is Bioanalysis?

In this textbook, we define *bioanalysis* as the chemical analysis of pharmaceutical substances in biological samples. The purpose of the chemical analysis is normally both to *identify* (identification) and to *quantify* (quantification) the pharmaceutical substance of interest in a given biological sample. This is performed by a *bioanalytical chemist* (scientist) using a *bioanalytical method*. The pharmaceutical substance of interest is often termed the *analyte*, and this term will be used throughout the textbook. Identification of the analyte implies that the exact chemical identity of the analyte is established unequivocally. Quantification of the analyte implies that the

concentration of the analyte in the biological sample is measured. It is important to emphasize that quantification is associated with small inaccuracies, and the result is prone to errors. Thus, the quantitative data should be considered as an estimate of the true concentration. Based on theoretical and practical skills, and based on careful optimization and testing of the bioanalytical methods, the bioanalytical chemist tries to reduce the error level, providing concentration estimates that are very close to the true values.

Bioanalytical data are highly important in many aspects. As an example, a patient serum sample is analyzed for the antibiotic drug substance gentamicin, and gentamicin is measured in the sample at a concentration of 5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. First, the identification of gentamicin in the blood serum sample confirms that the patient has taken the drug. This is important information because not all patients actually comply with the prescribed medication. Second, the exact concentration of gentamicin measured in the blood serum sample confirms that the amount of gentamicin taken is appropriate, as the recommended concentration level should be in the range of 4–10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. For aminoglycoside antibiotics such as gentamicin, it is recommended to monitor the concentration in blood if the treatment is expected to continue for more than 72 hours as these antibiotics have the potential to cause severe adverse reactions, such as nephrotoxicity and ototoxicity.

As will be discussed in much more detail in this book, not only blood serum samples are used for bioanalysis.

Bioanalysis can be performed on raw blood samples (whole blood) or on blood samples from which the blood cells have been removed (serum or plasma). Alternatively, bioanalysis can be performed from urine or saliva as examples, depending on the purpose of the bioanalysis. Bioanalysis is