



# Pharmacology of Pain

*By Pierre Beaulieu, David Lussier, Frank Porreca, Anthony Dickenson*

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Pharmacology of Pain provides a complete review of the pharmacology of pain, including mechanisms of drug actions, clinical aspects of drug usage, and new developments. This authoritative book describes the different systems involved in the perception, transmission, and modulation of pain and discusses the available options for pharmacological treatment of pain.

Who should buy this book?

Pharmacology of Pain is a particularly useful resource for:

Basic researchers and clinicians, including physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, and physical therapists

Other professionals in the field of pain research and treatment

Students and trainees

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**Bibliography**

- Rank: #1494837 in eBooks
- Published on: 2015-06-01
- Released on: 2015-06-01
- Format: Kindle eBook

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

This is an in-depth look at the pharmacology of pain. It is well organized and coalesces a tremendous amount of information into an understandable and useful format. There are numerous figures sprinkled throughout the text, with several in color. The list of contributing authors is prestigious and provides a diversity of expertise and backgrounds. ... This is a well-written, comprehensive review of pain pharmacology that will be useful both to basic scientists with research interests in pain and to pain specialist clinicians. --Reviewed by Tammy L Burns, PharmD, BCPS, Research Director, The Cardiac Center at Creighton University, Omaha, NE, USA. *The Annals of Pharmacotherapy*, 2011;45:285.

This publication by the IASP Press provides readers with an update on the current status of knowledge regarding the pharmacology of pain. ... [This] comprehensive review of analgesic mechanisms provides a timely update in the literature, filling a gap that has spanned more than a decade. ... The book is divided into four parts. The first section provides a current and concise description of pain neurophysiology. This portion is easy to read and presents a well-balanced review on this topic. The cleverly constructed framework guides readers from the basic mechanisms of peripheral nociception upwards to mechanisms of the central nervous system. The discussion aptly incorporates recent research into this subject, for example, the role of glial cells in pain transmission. ... The second and most substantial section of the book offers readers a total of 15 chapters, each dedicated to specific pharmacological pain targets. Some examples include the opioid system, sodium channels, the transient receptor potential family, and the cannabinoid systems. The authors put forth tremendous effort in these chapters to provide concise yet comprehensive summaries of the function of these systems, and they were successful in their undertaking. ... The chapter that deals with adrenergic and cholinergic targets provides an excellent review of sympatholytic interventions in patients with neuropathic pain. ... Section three provides an appraisal of distinctive topics in the pharmacology of pain, including pharmacogenetics, placebo analgesia, animal models of pain, and vulnerability to opioid tolerance, dependence, and addiction. These chapters are organized well and easy to read, which should appeal to a wide range of readers looking for accessible synopses of recent research in these areas. ... The fourth and final section deals with the clinical pharmacology of pain with a focus on specific populations, such as obstetrical, pediatric, or geriatric patients. ... This section summarizes the fundamental principles regarding the management of these specific populations and is a suitable resource for the clinician. ... Overall, this is a praiseworthy textbook that provides a comprehensive update on molecular mechanisms of pain transmission as well as the actions of present and perhaps future therapeutic agents. Although the text provides content relevant for students and clinicians managing painful conditions, the majority of the text would likely appeal to those more interested in fundamental mechanisms of drug action. --*Canadian Journal of Anesthesia* 2010;57:796-7. Reviewed by Geoff A. Bellingham, MD

The chapters are detailed and well-referenced and there is good use of schematic flow diagrams. The editors and IASP Press are to be congratulated and if you want a cutting-edge review of the pharmacology of pain, then here it is. --Roger Woodruff, MD, *International Association of Hospice and Palliative Care Newsletter*, April 2010

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#### About the Author

Anthony Dickenson, PhD, FMedSci, is Professor of Neuropharmacology in the Department of Pharmacology at University College, London, UK. He is a founding and continuing member of the Wellcome Trust-funded London Pain Consortium.

Pierre Beaulieu, MD, PhD, FRCA, is Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Anesthesiology at the University of Montréal, Québec, Canada.

David Lussier, MD, is the Associate Professor at University of Montréal, Adjunct Professor at McGill University, a member of McGill's Alan-Edwards Center for Research on Pain, and a physician at the University of Montréal Geriatric Institute and the McGill University Health Center.

Frank Porreca, PhD, is Professor of Pharmacology and Anesthesiology at the University of Arizona.

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#### Michael Gibson:

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