Pharmacology, BIOS 561

February 21, 2006

Extra Credit Assignment (not mandatory)

Select a drug discussed in class or from Brody’s Human Pharmacology, 4th Edition and write a 4-5 page paper based on a minimum of 2 scientific journal articles. These articles cannot be company literature or websites and cannot include any issue of the Physician’s Desk Reference. At least 1 article must be specifically about a clinical trial run for your drug of choice. At least 1 article must describe how the pharmacology of the drug was determined, i.e., what were the experiments done to determine mechanism of action, which receptors/channels/enzymes are affected, and some of the pharmacokinetics of the drug (e.g., half life, clearance, or other relevant PK parameter).

In order to get credit, you must turn in the following:
1. A 4-5 page, well written paper with references that describes at least 1 clinical trial outcome of your drug, its mechanism of action and how that was determined, and relevant pharmacokinetics.
2. A hardcopy of all references you used for this paper.

Maximum credit: 20 points. Simply doing the assignment does not guarantee receiving 20 points. You must put together a coherent report on your drug that is properly referenced to the scientific literature.

Timing: Dr. Sims will accept papers until April 14, 2006. Late papers will not be accepted and no credit will be given for any papers received after April 14, 2006.

Guidelines: 1 inch margins, 12 point font, regular double spacing. Papers that alter the font, margins, and spacing in order to decrease the writing will be lose 10 points automatically. A suggested outline of the topics to be included is below.
Suggested Outline:

Introduction
   Generic, brand, & chemical name of drug
   Why you selected it for this paper
   Approved uses of this drug
   General class or type of drug
   Other general background information

Mechanism of action
   What did you learn about the experiments done to determine what the MOA is?
   What other MOA’s were considered?
   What other drugs were used in the experiments & why?
   What was the conclusion of the paper about the MOA?

Clinical & PK
   What are the relevant pharmacokinetic parameters of this drug?
   How were they determined?
   Describe at least 1 clinical trial in which your drug was being investigated, including
   # patients, treatment groups, length of treatment, and outcome of the study

Summary
   What did you learn about your drug? About pharmacology?