

Special Issue

Skin Performance of Drug Delivery Systems: Scope, Challenges and Future Research and Regulatory Prospects

Message from the Guest Editors

Skin performance is an umbrella term for diverse attributes of topical products, ranging from bulk aesthetics to permeation testing. Although recent regulatory guidelines favour a patient-focused approach to topical product design, clear input on the suitable characterization techniques is often lacking, leaving opportunity for researchers in the field to contribute through novel or optimised testing protocols. Patient acceptability and adherence rely on a complex interplay of formulation attributes possibly discerned by rheology, texture, tribology and/or sensory profiling. The feel attributed to conventional dosage forms in terms of emolliency or occlusion is acknowledged, but inadequately assessed in case of innovative delivery systems. Finally, the transformation or metamorphosis phenomenon of certain formulations upon topical application needs special consideration, being directly responsible for effective drug delivery revealed via drug release and permeation testing. Therefore, both patient expectations and regulatory inclinations of topical formulations imply a need for tailored characterisation approaches.

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