

# Book Review

## New Book

### "Cosmeceuticals and Active Cosmetics"

*Publisher:* Taylor & Francis Group

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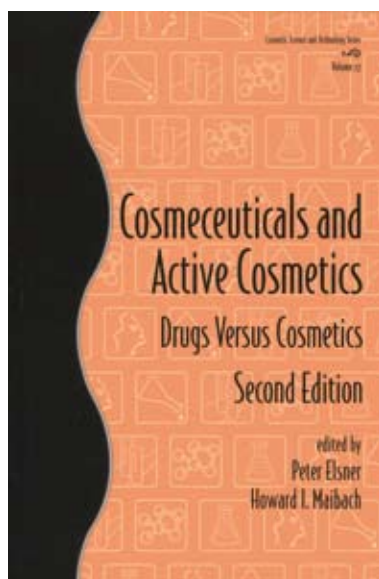
(Hardcover)

*ISBN-13:* 978-0-8247-5943-8

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*Number of pages:* 675

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The current volume is the second edition of this book first published in 2000. This field has expanded tremendously day by day since that time. This multi-author book launched as a second edition in 2005 is

of interest not only to investigators in the biomedical, biochemical and pharmaceutical sciences, but also to clinical dermatologists and cosmetic scientists. Topics are drawn from a wide spectrum of disciplines ranging from chemistry, physics, biochemistry, and dermatology to consumer evaluations, safety issues, efficacy, toxicity, and regulatory questions.

This book is edited by Peter Elsner and Howard I. Maibach, and is organized in six sections. "Cosmeceuticals", which means products marketed as cosmetics that contain biologically active ingredients, can be confusing especially to consumers overwhelmed by massive promotional campaigns appealing to the youth-observed generation of baby boomers with promises of eternal youth. The chapters were separated into categories as below.

1. Classes (17 chapters) – general and basic biology from amino acids to several kinds of topical agents such as decorative products, depigmentation products, moisturizers, protective creams, topical retinoids.
2. Substances (13 chapters) – substances such as dimethylaminoethanol, hyaluronan, kinetin,

melatonin, niacinamide, retinyl propionate, phyllanthus tannins, eflornithine, ellagic acid, retinaldehyde, copper, and even heat shock proteins.

3. Toxicology (2 chapters) – dermatotoxicology including several kinds of assays and tests for allergic or irritant dermatitis such as contact dermatitis or contact urticaria.
4. Product Development (1 chapter) – process engineering in cosmetics.
5. The Industry view (1 chapter) – advances in the science cosmetic care.
6. Regulatory (2 chapters) – regulations to produce cosmetics compared to drugs.

This book is very well structured and balanced, and complete. It should be highly recommended not only to dermatologists but also to cosmetic scientists, pharmacists, and regulators alike.

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