

6.2_Closure

An understanding of the principles of pharmacology has long been regarded a key component in the study of medicine.

Students of pharmacology examine the different ways in which the biochemical, physiological and psychological processes of the body are changed by drugs.

Initially, the discovery of drugs and medicinal plants took place largely through trial and error.

Developments in pharmacological knowledge helped to transform traditional treatments into drugs which could be manufactured cheaply and in large quantities.

Understanding how drugs achieve their effects at a cellular level helps researchers to find new and better drugs.

Developing new treatments requires a combination of existing and new knowledge, particularly when new diseases emerge.