

Preface

This *Methods in Enzymology* volume deals with the utility of green fluorescent protein (GFP). The OVID database (including MEDLINE, Current Contents, and other sources) lists nine references to GFP for the ten-year period 1985–1994. In contrast, in less than four years thereafter, more than 500 are listed, a testament to the rapid growth of interest in this probe.

This volume documents many diverse uses for this interesting molecule in disciplines that broadly span biology. The methods presented include shortcuts and conveniences not included in the sources from which they were taken. The techniques are described in a context that allows comparisons to other related methodologies. The authors were encouraged to do this in the belief that such comparisons are valuable to readers who must adapt extant procedures to new systems. Also, so far as possible, methodologies are presented in a manner that stresses their general applicability and potential limitations. Although for various reasons some topics are not covered, the volume provides a substantial and current overview of the extant methodology in the field and a view of its rapid development.

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