

PREFACE

This is the fifth edition of the *Handbook of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*. The first edition was published as a single volume in 1968 under the guidance of Herbert Sober. The second edition appeared in 1970 and the third, with Gerald Fasman as editor, appeared in eight volumes published in 1975–6. This increase in size reflected the rapid advances in knowledge in the then relatively new field of molecular biology. The 4th edition of the *Handbook of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* was published in 2010 with the goal of retaining material from the previous editions as well as incorporating some new material.

It is intended that current *Handbook of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* be a companion volume to the *CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*—a single volume ready-reference work that will find a home on the bookshelves of biochemists and molecular biologists everywhere. We have retained material from the fourth edition as well as including a large amount of material from the third edition. It is recognized that some of this material is dated but it was our intent to convert this material to electronic copy with the goal of revising

such for the 6th edition. We do not expect to go back again to previous volumes for additional material. It is intended that the *Handbook of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* serve as repository of data on the properties of biochemicals and it is not intended to serve as textbook. As such, some exciting areas of molecular biology are not included. There is comfort in that such work is extensively covered in other reviews. The advent of electronic media allows for more frequent updating and it is hoped that any infelicities in our selection may be readily rectified. Additionally, suggestions on new topics for this Handbook and notification of errors are always appreciated. Address all comments to Editor, *Handbook of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*, Taylor & Francis Group, 6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 300, Boca Raton, FL 33487.

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