
Preface

As with first edition of the *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Compendium*, this current work has been a learning process for me. Unlike other encyclopedic works where individual sections are written by experts, the current work has been written by a single individual best known as classical protein chemist (aka dinosaur) as opposed to someone skilled in proteomics. This has the advantage that the writer has no specific bias and needs to understand the various abbreviations and acronyms that have invaded article titles and abstracts with no explanation. The meaning of such abbreviations and acronyms is known, but frequently disputed, by the members of a specific group (Houck, J.C., Hinman, J.W., Glenn, E.M., Rebuck, J.W., and Forscher, B.K. Introduction, *Biochem. Pharmacol.* 17(Suppl. 1), v-vi, 1968; Chies, J.A.B. and Veit, T.D., Lost in a tsunami of references: the Babel tower strikes again, *Tissue Antigens*, 75, 657, 2010); however, an individual outside

of this group struggles to find an approved interpretation. Notwithstanding this issue, it is my hope that the information is useful. I feel a bit like the great Samuel Johnson in his compilation of "A dictionary of the English language in which the words are deduced from their originals and illustrated in their different significations by examples from the best writers" (8th edition, London, 1799). The preface describes a situation similar to mine in assembling content and ends with "The orthography and etymology, though imperfect, are not imperfect for lack of care, but care will not always be successful, and recollection or information come too late for use."

I wrote in the preface for the first edition about the importance of visiting libraries and not just relying on electronic access. There is much to be learned by consulting earlier works, such as those by John Edsall on the physical chemistry of amino acids and proteins.