

Preface

The enormous progress in protein biochemistry within the past five decades is the result of the very rapid development and progress in analytical methods. Therefore, it is the intention of this book to provide the continuously growing family of researchers involved in the study of proteins with a compendium that reviews the latest developments in the very special fields of protein studies *in vitro* and *in vivo*. It is not the aim of this book to provide a complete listing of all efforts made in a particular field but, rather, to give experts the opportunity to evaluate particular developments and to offer the inexperienced investigator an opportunity to orient himself or herself among the literature and to evaluate the chosen method in accordance with his or her special needs.

Of course, this book can only provide a highly selected assortment from the multiplicity of analytical methods, which I selected from authors that I met at research meetings, such as the International Association of Protein Structure Analysis and Proteomics (IAPSAP) and the Max-Bergman-Kreis (MBK), or that I contacted on recommendation or because of personal acquaintance. Hence, I would like to thank Ettore Appella, Carl Anderson, Jan Johansson, and Roland Schauer for support and valuable suggestions.

It is hoped that this book will help to extend methodological knowledge, assist the reader in the evaluation and application of these methods, facilitate the approach to actual scientific problems, and help avoid time-consuming and unnecessary errors.

Münster, August 2011
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