
Contents

Chapter 1. Specimen Preparation	1
PRINCIPLES OF FIXATION	1
Chemical Fixation	1
Physical Fixation	5
ORGANIC DEHYDRATION	5
EMBEDDING MEDIA	6
MISCELLANEOUS TIPS FOR FORMULATING SOLUTIONS IN THE ELECTRON MICROSCOPY LABORATORY	9
A Routine Fixation and Embedding Schedule for Transmission Electron Microscopy Samples (Tissues or Cells)	12
A Routine Schedule for the Preparation of Cell and Tissue Samples for Scanning Electron Microscopy	18
Preparation of Primary (Aldehyde) Fixatives	20
Preparation of Osmium Tetroxide	22
BUFFERING SYSTEMS	28
Cacodylate Buffers	29
Phosphate Buffers	30
Tris-HCl Buffer	32
Sodium Acetate Buffer	33
Dulbecco's Phosphate-Buffered Saline	34
RESIN FORMULATIONS	36
Spurr Resin	38
Poly/Bed 812 Resin	42
SPI-PON 812 Kit	44

Epon 812	46
Araldite 6005 Resin	47
Mollenhauer's Epon/Araldite Resin	49
LR (London Resin Co.) White Resin	50
Lowicryl and LR Gold Resins	52
Polyethylene Glycol Method for TEM Sections	53
JB-4 (Glycol Methacrylate) Techniques for High-Resolution Light Microscopy	55
Agar Embedment of Cell Suspensions or Subcellular Particulates for TEM	57
Preparing Adherent Tissue Culture Monolayers <i>in Situ</i> for TEM	60
Flat Embedding of Cell Cultures Grown on Permanox® Tissue Culture Dishes for TEM	63
Preparation of Buffy Coats for TEM	64
Sperm Fixation	65
Central Nervous System Fixation (Brain, Spinal Cord)	67
Using Vacuum to Help Wet Fungal, Plant, or Insect Materials during Primary Fixation	69
Simultaneous Aldehyde/Osmium Fixation for Protozoan Samples or Samples with Large Amounts of Lipid	70
Killing Cells Prior to Chemical Fixation	72
Flat Embedding on Microscope Slides	73
Procedure for Deparaffining Tissues	75
 Chapter 2. Sectioning Methods	79
Making a Section Retrieval Loop	79
Making a Section Manipulation Tool	82
Making a Locking Ring for Forceps	83
Making Glass Knives	83
Making Glass Knife Boats	85
Glass Knife Storage	87
Diamond Knives	88
Block Trimming	89
Sectioning Procedures	90
Semithin Sections	95
Grid Selection	96
Grid Cleaning	97
Ultrathin Sections	97
Common Sectioning Problems	98

Chapter 3. Specialized SEM Procedures	101
Poly-L-lysine Technique for Attaching Particulates to Coverslips for SEM	102
Organosilane Coverslip/Slide Treatment	104
Critical Point Drying for SEM	106
Drying Samples with Hexamethyldisilazane	109
Drying SEM Samples with Peldri II™	110
Sputter Coating	111
Vascular Casting with Mercox CL-2B	114
 Chapter 4. Section Staining Procedures	119
Semithin Section Staining with Toluidine Blue O	120
Polychrome Stain for Semithin Sections	122
Staining Ultrathin Sections	123
 Chapter 5. Support Films	129
Preparation of Formvar-Coated Grids	129
Formvar-Coated Aluminum Bridges for Slot Grids	133
Coating Grids with Butvar B-98	139
Coating Grids with Collodion Films	141
Making Carbon Support Films	143
 Chapter 6. Negative Staining	147
Negative Staining with Phosphotungstic Acid	148
Negative Staining with Uranyl Acetate	151
Negative Staining with Ammonium Molybdate	154
Wetting Agents Used for Negative Staining	155
 Chapter 7. Preparation of Viral Samples for Transmission Electron Microscopy	159
Ultracentrifugation Technique for Viral Sample Preparation	159
Lyphogel Technique for Concentrating Virus	161
Immune Electron Microscopy for Concentrating Virus	162
Concentrating Virus with the Beckman Airfuge	163

Chapter 8. Vacuum Evaporation	167
Shadow Casting	170
DNA (Plasmid) Preparation for TEM	174
 Chapter 9. Films and Photographic Methods	177
Kodak Electron Microscope (TEM) Film 4489	180
Films in 35-mm Format	181
Kodak Technical Pan 2415 for Photomicrography	183
Ilford Pan-F and FP-4	185
Kodak T-Max 100 Film	186
Kodalith Film	187
Kodak LPD4/Precision Line Film	188
Kodak Rapid Process Copy Film 2064	189
Kodak Recordak 2468	190
Polaroid Polagraph HC 35-mm Film	191
Polaroid Polaplan 35-mm Film	192
Tungsten-Balanced Kodak Ektachrome	192
Kodak Technical Pan 2415 for Making Copy Negatives	194
Polaroid Copy Negatives Using Type 55 P/N Film	195
Making Photographic Prints	196
Poster Preparation	200
 Chapter 10. Cytochemical Techniques	205
POLYSACCHARIDE STAINS	206
Ruthenium Red Staining	207
Silver Methenamine Staining for Polysaccharides	209
CALCIUM STAINING	213
Prefixation Calcium Staining in Muscle Tissue	213
Postfixation Calcium Staining with Pyroantimonate	216
COLLOIDAL GOLD TECHNIQUES	218
Preparation of 13-nm Colloidal Gold	220
Conjugation of Gold to Proteins	223
Indirect Immunolabeling Procedure for Sections of Materials Embedded in LR White or Lowicryl K4M Resin (Acrylic Resins)	226
Procedure for Immunolabeling Intact Cells (Preembedding Labeling of Cell Surfaces)	228

Cryoultramicrotomy and Subsequent Immunolabeling (an Example for Muscle Immunolabeling)	229
Chapter 11. Autoradiography	235
Autoradiography with Semithin Epoxide-Embedded Sections of Cells or Tissues	236
Appendix A. Computing Micrometer Bar Sizes	243
Appendix B. Calibrating the TEM and the SEM	245
Appendix C. Materials and Methods Write-up Suggestions for Standard TEM and SEM Preparations	247
Appendix D. Safety	249
Appendix E. Electron Microscopy Supplies	251
Index	253