

Contents

1	An Overview of Metals in Biology	1
	Introduction	1
	Why Do We Need Anything Other Than C, H, N and O (Together with Some P and S)? ...	2
	What are the Essential Metal Ions?	3
	References	12
2	Basic Coordination Chemistry for Biologists	13
	Introduction	13
	Ionic bonding	14
	Covalent bonding	14
	Hard and Soft Ligands	15
	The chelate effect	16
	Coordination Geometry	18
	Crystal Field Theory and Ligand Field Theory	19
	References	26
3	Biological Ligands for Metal Ions	27
	Introduction	27
	Protein Amino Acid Residues (and Derivatives) as Ligands	27
	An Example of a Non-Protein Ligand: Carbonate and Phosphate	29
	Engineering Metal Insertion into Organic Cofactors	30
	Chelatase: Terminal Step in Tetrapyrrole Metallation	30
	Iron-Sulfur Cluster Containing Proteins	32
	Iron-Sulfur Cluster Formation	33
	Copper Insertion into Superoxide Dismutase	35
	More Complex Cofactors: MoCo, FeMoCo, P-Clusters, H-Clusters and CuZ	36
	Siderophores	39
	References	42
4	Structural and Molecular Biology for Chemists	43
	Introduction	43
	The Structural Building Blocks of Proteins	43
	Primary, Secondary, Tertiary and Quaternary Structures of Proteins	47
	The structural building blocks of nucleic acids	55
	Secondary and Tertiary Structures of Nucleic Acids	56
	Carbohydrates	59
	Lipids and biological membranes	64
	A brief overview of molecular biology	66
	Replication and transcription	67
	Translation	71
	Postscript	75
	References	76

5	An Overview of Intermediary Metabolism and Bioenergetics	77
	Introduction	77
	Redox Reactions in Metabolism	78
	The Central Role of ATP in Metabolism	79
	The Types of Reaction Catalysed by Enzymes of Intermediary Metabolism	82
	An Overview of Intermediary Metabolism: Catabolism	86
	Selected Case Studies: Glycolysis and the Tricarboxylic Acid Cycle	88
	An Overview of Intermediary Metabolism: Anabolism	92
	Bioenergetics: Generation of Phosphoryl Transfer Potential at the Expense of Proton Gradients	97
	References	104
6	Methods to Study Metals in Biological Systems	105
	Introduction	105
	Magnetic Properties	107
	Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR) Spectroscopy	108
	Mössbauer Spectroscopy	109
	NMR Spectroscopy	110
	Electronic and Vibrational Spectroscopies	112
	Circular Dichroism and Magnetic Circular Dichroism	113
	Resonance Raman Spectroscopy	114
	Extended X-Ray Absorption Fine Structure	115
	X-Ray Diffraction	115
	References	116
7	Metal Assimilation Pathways	117
	Introduction	117
	Metal Assimilation in Bacteria	117
	Iron	117
	Copper and zinc	120
	Metal Assimilation in Plants and Fungi	121
	Iron	121
	Copper and zinc	124
	Metal Assimilation in Mammals	126
	Iron	126
	Copper and zinc	127
	References	129
8	Transport, Storage and Homeostasis of Metal Ions	131
	Introduction	131
	Metal Storage and Homeostasis in Bacteria	131
	Iron	131
	Copper and zinc	135
	Metal Transport, Storage and Homeostasis in Plants and Fungi	136
	Iron storage and transport in fungi and plants	136
	Iron homeostasis in fungi and plants	137
	Copper transport and storage in fungi and plants	139

	Copper homeostasis in fungi and plants	142
	Zinc transport and storage in fungi and plants	142
	Zinc homeostasis in fungi and plants	143
	Metal Transport, Storage and Homeostasis in Mammals	144
	Iron transport and storage in mammals	144
	Iron homeostasis in mammals	146
	Copper and zinc transport and storage in mammals	148
	Copper and zinc homeostasis in mammals	148
	References	150
9	Sodium and Potassium—Channels and Pumps	151
	Introduction: —Transport Across Membranes	151
	Sodium <i>Versus</i> Potassium	152
	Potassium channels	153
	Sodium Channels	155
	The sodium-potassium ATPase	157
	Active transport driven by Na ⁺ gradients	158
	Sodium/proton exchangers	159
	Other roles of intracellular K ⁺	161
	References	163
10	Magnesium—Phosphate Metabolism and Photoreceptors	165
	Introduction	165
	Magnesium-Dependent Enzymes	166
	Phosphoryl Group Transfer: Kinases	167
	Phosphoryl Group Transfer: Phosphatases	170
	Stabilization of Enolate Anions: The Enolase Super Family	173
	Enzymes of Nucleic Acid Metabolism	175
	Magnesium and Photoreception	178
	References	181
11	Calcium: Cellular Signalling	183
	Introduction: —Comparison of Ca ²⁺ and Mg ²⁺	183
	The Discovery of a Role for Ca ²⁺ Other Than as a Structural Component	183
	Plasma Membrane Uptake Pathways	185
	Calcium Export from Cells	185
	Ca ²⁺ Transport Across Intracellular Membranes	188
	Ca ²⁺ and Cell Signalling	191
	References	195
12	Zinc: Lewis Acid and Gene Regulator	197
	Introduction	197
	Mononuclear Zinc Enzymes	198
	Carbonic Anhydrase	199
	Carboxypeptidases and Thermolysins	200
	Alcohol Dehydrogenases	202

Other Mononuclear Zinc Enzymes	203
Multinuclear and Cocatalytic Zinc Enzymes	205
Zinc Fingers – DNA- and RNA-Binding Motifs	208
References	210
13 Iron: Essential for Almost All Life	211
Introduction	211
Iron and Oxygen	212
The Biological Importance of Iron	214
Biological Functions of Iron-Containing Proteins	216
Haemoproteins	217
Oxygen transport	217
Activators of molecular oxygen	220
Electron transport proteins	222
Iron–Sulfur Proteins	226
Other Iron-Containing Proteins	231
Mononuclear non-haem iron enzymes	231
Dinuclear non-haem iron enzymes	235
References	239
14 Copper: Coping with Dioxygen	241
Introduction	241
Blue Copper Proteins Involved in Electron Transport	242
Copper-Containing Enzymes in Oxygen Activation and Reduction	244
Type 2 Copper Oxidases and Oxygenases	244
Dinuclear Type 3 Copper Proteins	245
Multi-Copper Oxidases	247
Cytochrome c Oxidases	248
Superoxide Dismutation in Health and Diseases	250
Copper Enzymes Involved with Other Low-Molecular Weight Substrates	251
Mars and Venus: The Role of Copper in Iron Metabolism	253
References	254
15 Nickel and Cobalt: Evolutionary Relics	257
Introduction: Comparison of Nickel and Cobalt	257
Nickel Enzymes	258
Urease	258
Ni–Fe–S Proteins	259
Methyl-Coenzyme M Reductase	263
Cobalamine and Cobalt Proteins	263
B ₁₂ -Dependent Isomerases	264
B ₁₂ -Dependent Methyltransferases	266
Non-Corrin Co-Containing Enzymes	268
References	269

16 Manganese: Water Splitting, Oxygen Atom Donor	271
Introduction: Manganese Chemistry	271
Mn ²⁺ and Detoxification of Oxygen Free Radicals	272
Non-Redox di-Mn Enzymes: Arginase	274
Photosynthetic Oxidation of Water: Oxygen Evolution	276
References	278
17 Molybdenum, Tungsten, Vanadium and Chromium	279
Introduction	279
Molybdenum and Tungsten	279
Molybdenum Enzyme Families	282
Tungsten Enzymes	285
Nitrogenases	286
Vanadium Biochemistry	291
Vanadium Biology	292
Chromium in Biology	294
References	295
18 Metals in Brain and Their Role in Various Neurodegenerative Diseases	297
Introduction: Metals in Brain	297
Calcium	297
Zinc	300
Copper	301
Disorders of Copper Metabolism: Wilson's and Menkes Diseases	301
Aceruloplasminaemia	303
Creutzfeldt-Jakob and Other Prion Diseases	303
Iron	306
Redox Metal Ions, Oxidative Stress and Neurodegenerative Diseases	308
Parkinson's Disease, PD	311
Alzheimer's Disease, AD	313
Huntington's Disease	317
Friedreich's Ataxia	319
References	320
19 Biomineralization	321
Introduction	321
Iron Deposition in Ferritin	322
Iron pathways into ferritin	323
Iron oxidation at dinuclear centres	324
Ferrihydrite nucleation sites	326
Biomineralization	327
Calcium-Based Biominerals: Calcium Carbonates in Ascidians and Molluscs	330

Biom mineralization in Bone and Enamel Formation	333
The Organic Matrix, Mineral Phase and Bone Mineralization	334
References	336
20 Metals in Medicine and the Environment	339
Introduction	339
Metallotherapeutics with Lithium	340
Cisplatin: An Anti-Cancer Drug	341
Contrast Agents for Magnetic Resonance Imaging	344
Metals in the Environment	346
Cadmium	346
Aluminium	350
References	352
Index	353