

PREFACE

Biochemistry continues to be one of the most important areas of research in the life sciences. Indeed, with the need to characterize the diverse range of gene products generated as a result of genetic engineering techniques, there has been a resurgence of interest in biochemistry as molecular biologists examine the changing properties of modified proteins.

There have been handbooks on biochemistry, both encyclopedic and selective. However, the former type of book tests physical fitness and patience and the selection of topics for the latter often does not reflect the current biochemical practices and techniques because the books were published some time ago. We, as editors, have attempted to assemble the most important facts in a way that reflects current biochemical techniques to provide data that biochemists will need to use in their work on an almost daily basis. The length restriction of this book has required us to be very selective in terms of which topics to include and which to exclude. We have tried to emphasize those aspects of the subject that have not been included in previous books. We hope that this will prove to be a useful data book for everyone working in the area of biochemistry.

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