

Preface

The sequence of a chloroplast gene encoding a protein was first published in 1980, not so very long ago. It was not a coincidence that the integration of molecular approaches in plants initially took place, to a large degree, in the area of photosynthesis. The depth and quality of the physiological, biochemical, and biophysical advances in photosynthesis made it one of the best targets for the "new" molecular approaches. We have now moved from studying "photosynthetic" genes to their modification and reinsertion into bacteria, cyanobacteria, algae, and higher plants. Integration of structure and function studies in photosynthetic research is the modern paradigm, no longer a new phenomenon. This *Methods in Enzymology* volume demonstrates how far we have come and makes it obvious that future work has many challenges but far fewer technical limitations.

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