

PREFACE

It is said that necessity is the mother of invention. Although this seems to be true, I suspect that indolence also has something to do with it and perhaps some paternity testing would be in order. Such was the case with the present book. The necessity was provided by the circumstance that I was to teach a course about a steady-state kinetics approach to the elucidation of enzyme mechanisms, but in the apparent absence of a suitable textbook I was forced to develop my own teaching materials. The putative father of this book was my disinclination to burden myself and the students any more than necessary with long, convoluted derivations and explanations as well as to attempt an exhaustive literature review. Therefore, the approach taken was the shortest and simplest I could find. The success or failure of this approach is to be determined by you the reader.

In addition the ancestry of this book includes the efforts and forbearance of several other individuals. Dr. Tim Fritz, Staff Scientist at the National Institutes of Health, NIDDK, read the manuscript and made many comments that improved the clarity of the book very significantly. His efforts are greatly appreciated.

Dr. W. W. (Mo) Cleland was not only instrumental in the development of much of the science described here but provided me, a number of years ago, with an introduction to it and an opportunity to learn some of it. I am grateful.

Dr. Herb Cheung and Dr. Jeff Engler, both of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, provided needed encouragement.

Finally I am grateful to my wife, Carol, who exercised generous forbearance that allowed me to develop the material and write the manuscript during time that otherwise could have been devoted to joint activities and concerns.

Verona, Maine
Summer 2001