

Preface

In recognition of the enormous advances in biotechnology in recent years, we are pleased to present this Second Edition of "Biotechnology" relatively soon after the introduction of the First Edition of this multi-volume comprehensive treatise. Since this series was extremely well accepted by the scientific community, we have maintained the overall goal of creating a number of volumes, each devoted to a certain topic, which provide scientists in academia, industry, and public institutions with a well-balanced and comprehensive overview of this growing field. We have fully revised the Second Edition and expanded it from ten to twelve volumes in order to take all recent developments into account.

These twelve volumes are organized into three sections. The first four volumes consider the fundamentals of biotechnology from biological, biochemical, molecular biological, and chemical engineering perspectives. The next four volumes are devoted to products of industrial relevance. Special attention is given here to products derived from genetically engineered microorganisms and mammalian cells. The last four volumes are dedicated to the description of special topics.

The new "Biotechnology" is a reference work, a comprehensive description of the state-of-the-art, and a guide to the original literature. It is specifically directed to microbiologists, biochemists, molecular biologists, bioengineers, chemical engineers, and food and pharmaceutical chemists working in industry, at universities or at public institutions.

A carefully selected and distinguished Scientific Advisory Board stands behind the

series. Its members come from key institutions representing scientific input from about twenty countries.

The volume editors and the authors of the individual chapters have been chosen for their recognized expertise and their contributions to the various fields of biotechnology. Their willingness to impart this knowledge to their colleagues forms the basis of "Biotechnology" and is gratefully acknowledged. Moreover, this work could not have been brought to fruition without the foresight and the constant and diligent support of the publisher. We are grateful to VCH for publishing "Biotechnology" with their customary excellence. Special thanks are due to Dr. Hans-Joachim Kraus and Karin Dembowsky, without whose constant efforts the series could not be published. Finally, the editors wish to thank the members of the Scientific Advisory Board for their encouragement, their helpful suggestions, and their constructive criticism.

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