

PREFACE IN ENZYMOLOGY

The presence of modified nucleotides in cellular RNAs has been known for over 40 years, and over 100 distinct RNA modifications have been characterized to date. While these modifications are often not essential, most contribute to the overall fitness of the organism. Because a significant proportion of genomic information is devoted to RNA modifications, this volume contains computational, bioinformatic, and genome-wide strategies for identifying and characterizing the activities involved, as well as the biochemical approaches that are more typically included in a methods volume.

This volume and its companion (Volume 424: *RNA Editing*) are meant to complement one another. The fields of RNA modification and editing overlap extensively, and it is often impossible to make clear distinctions between changes that are classified as RNA modifications and those that are referred to as RNA editing events (e.g., A to I changes in tRNAs vs. mRNAs). For the purpose of this series, I have designated chapters for the modification or editing volumes based on common conventions, which are largely historical rather than scientific in origin.

I wish to thank the contributors to this volume for their efforts and professionalism; it has been a pleasure reading their chapters. This volume is dedicated to my parents in appreciation for their unfailing love and support throughout my life.

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