

This is the fourth edition of the *Handbook of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*. The first edition was published as a single volume in 1968 under the guidance of Herbert Sober. The second edition appeared in 1970 and the third, with Gerald Fasman as editor, appeared in eight volumes published in 1975–6. This increase in size reflected the rapid advances in knowledge in the then relatively new field of molecular biology.

It is intended that current *Handbook of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* be a companion volume to the *CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*—a single volume ready-reference work that will find a home on the bookshelves of biochemists and molecular biologists everywhere.

This fourth edition contains materials from the previous editions as well as extensive new material. Staying within the confines of a single volume has meant difficult decisions on which tables to include, and the editors welcome feedback from readers. The advent of electronic media allows for more frequent updating and it is hoped that any infelicities in our selection may be

readily rectified. Additionally, suggestions on new topics for this Handbook and notification of errors are always appreciated. Address all comments to Editor, *Handbook of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*, Taylor & Francis Group, 6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 300, Boca Raton, FL 33487.

Much of the current content is derived from the research of the giants of biochemistry and molecular biology in the three decades following World War II. While it seems the vogue to develop new names and descriptions for old, established concepts, biochemistry and molecular biology continue to be the mainstays of current biomedical research.

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