

Preface

Throughout my career, I have shared the view of many colleagues—that the structure of proteins must relate to their function, as clearly witnessed by tens of thousands of actual structures solved and deposited in various databases. The turning point in my research came when I came across the idea of *disorder* in proteins, and I became interested in understanding these rare exceptions to the rule. The introduction of this simple idea has unleashed a wealth of information on proteins that defy the structure-function paradigm. It turns out that these proteins are rather prevalent and play important regulatory and signaling roles.

Due to the breathtaking pace at which novel information is generated these days, it is both easy and difficult to write a book on this subject. It is easy because so many observations have been made that the subject lends itself to extensive coverage. It is difficult because the concepts are in continuous flux due to the constant outpouring of information. At least one thing is clear: The structural disorder of proteins deserves to be surveyed comprehensively. This book is my attempt to help reach this ambitious goal. I hope it will inspire future work in the field.