
PREFACE

The rapid growth of interest and research activity in ion channels is indicative of their fundamental importance in the maintenance of the living state. This volume was prepared with a view to providing a sampling of the range of molecular and physical methods that are significant for the study of ion channels.

The authors were selected from the contributors of previous *Methods in Enzymology* volumes on that topic on the basis of their significant research contributions in the area about which they have written. They have been encouraged to make use of graphics and comparisons with other methods, and to provide tricks and approaches that make it possible to adapt methods to other systems.

The authors were encouraged to present these methods in a fashion that allows their replication by individuals new to the field, yet providing valuable information for seasoned investigators.

I express my appreciation to the contributors for revising their contributions and to the staff of Academic Press for helpful input and maintaining outstanding production standards.

P. Michael Conn