

The importance of metals in biology, the environment and medicine has become increasingly evident over the last twenty-five years. The study of the multiple roles of metal ions in biological systems, the rapidly expanding interface between inorganic chemistry and biology constitutes the subject called **Biological Inorganic Chemistry**.

The initial chapters introduce this exciting and dynamic field by explaining the concepts, both chemical and biological, which equip the reader for the detailed analysis which follows. Pathways of metal assimilation, storage and transport, as well as metal homeostasis are dealt with next. Thereafter, individual chapters discuss the roles of sodium and potassium, magnesium, calcium, zinc, iron, copper, nickel and cobalt, manganese, and finally molybdenum, vanadium, tungsten and chromium. The final three chapters provide a tantalising view of the roles of metals in brain function, biomineralization and a brief illustration of their importance in both medicine and the environment.

Key Features:

- Written by a biochemist for chemists and biologists
- Relaxed and accessible writing style
- Many colour illustrations

Biological Inorganic Chemistry is an ideal text for instructors to use when teaching courses in the role of metals in biological systems, whether designated **Bioinorganic Chemistry** or **Inorganic Biochemistry**. While written from a biochemical viewpoint, the text is addressed to student readers with either a biology or chemistry background, not to forget those coming from medical or environmental formations.

Robert R. Crichton has more than thirty years experience in teaching the subject, has published over 200 scientific articles and several books. He was the organiser of a series of advanced courses on the subject, held in Louvain-la-Neuve over twenty years, which have trained more than 750 young doctoral and postdoctoral students, many of whom are today leaders in the field.

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