

Preface

Once again, the authors in this Volume of Reports, covering the year 1999, have attempted as far as possible to comprehensively cover topics within chapter titles that have long been recognised as pillars of the subject matter under review. Within each chapter there are obviously evolutionary changes over the years, as we now have to reflect that more and more publications are all-encompassing in their subject content. Data on structure, synthesis, biological activity and analogue studies often appear in the same publication; hence some overlap of publications between chapters has become inevitable. Hopefully different viewpoints will have been highlighted as a result.

In last year's volume, we referred to the need to be continually observant of good standards in nomenclature and abbreviations. We understand that IUB-IUPAC are reviewing this area, but while we await publication of their deliberations, we are grateful to Dr. John Jones and to John Wiley & Sons Ltd for permission to include in this volume the short guide on nomenclature and abbreviations which originally appeared in *J. Peptide Science*, 1999, **5**, 465. This article has been reproduced unchanged from the original journal article.

Two major conferences in this research area have taken place while this volume has been in gestation. The 16th American Peptide Symposium in Minneapolis has given rise to *Peptides for the New Millennium*, eds. G.B. Fields, J.P. Tam and G. Barany, Kluwer, Dordrecht, Netherlands, 2000, 829pp. The 26th European Peptide Symposium at Montpellier has given us *Peptides 2000*, eds. Jean Martinez and Jean-Alain Fehrentz, Editions EDK, Paris, 2001, 1055pp, which records the exciting developments presented there. The contents of these books offer an overview of current developments, but the policy adopted by all our Reporters is to allow the work contained in them to mature into full papers before making comment.

This volume has again relied on a group of experienced Reporters, who have laboured hard over many months. Graham Barrett, Donald Elmore, Anand Dutta and Jennifer Littlechild all deserve sincere thanks for their compilations. We understand that this year's will be the last chapter we will receive from Anand Dutta, who has over the years augmented our coverage by accessing a great deal of pharmacological data on peptides, not freely available to many Reporters in this series. We wish Anand well, as he takes on other fields of interest.

Finally the patience and professionalism of the RSC Publications staff have again been instrumental in producing this volume of Reports, which we hope will be a sourcebook and seedcorn for many future activities in this wide and important field.

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