

## Preface

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This volume of reports, covering the literature of the year 2000, has seen some evolutionary changes to chapters, especially those that have been ‘penned’ by new or different authors compared with previous volumes. For continuity, authors have again been asked, as far as possible, to structure sub-sections to correlate with patterns used over a number of years. However, the depth of discussion has certainly been improved in many sections. The volume of international literature in this subject area continues to expand, with its thrust moving seamlessly into the more biological/medicinal areas.

Two Senior Reporters have overseen the compilation of this volume, which reflects the increased challenges in securing authors to undertake the demanding tasks of reviewing. Whereas the original literature has become available increasingly in electronic form, access to this form and to hard copy of journals is not always easy, and hence the task of the reviewer seems to have become harder rather than easier. The policy adopted by each reporter is to concentrate on refereed papers, with little coverage of conference proceedings and patents.

This volume sees the inclusion of the biennial chapter on ‘Metal Complexes of Amino Acids and Peptides’ written by our colleagues from Hungary (Etelka Farkas and Imre Sóvágó), while Donald Elmore has maintained his comprehensive coverage of Peptide Synthesis. Graham Barrett has taken a more in-depth approach to the chapter on Proteins, which is reflected by a change in title for the chapter. Having the same authorship (John Davies) for the middle chapters in this volume has meant that the tendency for cyclic peptides to achieve the honour of being reviewed in both chapters has now been virtually eliminated. We welcome Weng Chan and Avril Higton as new authors for the Amino Acids review, hoping that having ‘cut their teeth’ in this field, they will wish to continue to contribute to this Specialist Periodical Report.

Finally, as deadlines come and go, we are perennially grateful to the RSC staff for their patience and efficient transfer of the reporters’ hard work into electronic and printed compilations, and for adopting the use of figures in colour for the electronic version of the chapter on Proteins. We sincerely hope that the wealth of material reviewed here will inspire our readers to contribute further key developments to this area of great endeavour.

Graham Barrett  
Oxford

John Davies  
Swansea

