

Preface

The literature on amino acids, peptides and proteins arrives in a variety of ways at the desktops of those maintaining current awareness of these topic areas. Whether our readers choose to read the online version of the chapters in this volume or have the traditional book format in front of them, we offer this latest volume on the 2001 literature, with the hope that new leads and further clarity will be conveyed through browsing these chapters. During the production of this volume, proceedings^{1,2} of two major international symposia were published, reflecting the wealth and spread of work currently being researched in this area. We wait with interest for the contents of these proceedings to work their way to edited journal presentations for further review.

The policy for Specialist Periodical Reports published by the Royal Society of Chemistry continues to require in-depth and critical coverage of the literature. The endeavours of the team of authors are focussed by this policy on to major trends in current research. Although an approach to comprehensive coverage of narrow topics can be seen here and there, in this volume the subject areas are now vast and have called for compression and selectivity, particularly in the proteins area.

For this volume we welcome new authors for a wide ranging chapter on analogue and conformational studies on peptides and peptide hormones, now under the authorship of Botond Penke, Gábor Tóth and Györgyi Váradi from the Medical University of Szeged, Hungary. We offer a warm welcome to them and look forward to having their company in future volumes. Authors that have been involved with previous volumes in this series have penned the other chapters. So we are very grateful for the unstinting efforts of Donald Elmore, Graham Barrett and John Davies, and for their commitment to the continuation of this series of reports. Unfortunately the usual chapter on amino acids failed to make the deadline for publication, but will appear in the next volume as a 2-year compilation.

In order to preserve good practice in the use of abbreviations in peptide science, we once again reproduce by permission from J. Wiley and Sons the publishers, John Jones's 'Short Guide to Abbreviations' as published in *J. Peptide Science*, 1999, 5, 465-471.

¹ Peptides 2002 Proceedings of the 27th European Peptide Symposium, Sorrento, Italy. Eds. E. Benedetti and C. Pedone, Edizioni Ziino, S.a.s, 2002, 1057pp.

² Peptides: The wave of the Future. Proceedings of the 2nd International and 27th American Peptide Symposium, San Diego, USA. Eds. M. Lebl and R.A. Houghten, American Peptide Symposium, 2001, 1111pp.

As always, the reporters are sincerely grateful to RSC personnel who have overseen the project, and who have ensured that their manuscripts are transcribed efficiently to the document you are now reading.

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