

Preface

This 35th Volume in the series has not appeared within a time frame that we would all be proud of, but it is often difficult to recover from critical delays brought about mainly through pressure of work. However it is our sincere hope that the hard work of our Chapter authors will form a real workhorse of a source book, representing the relevant and important work associated with the period up to the end of 2002. With the expansion of the literature all our Reporters have increasingly had to approach their task with a more selective brief than was the case in earlier volumes of the series.

In the absence of a chapter on Amino Acids in volume 34, Chapter 1 in this Volume covers the two-year period 2001–2, and this time also we welcome back the biennial Chapter on ‘Metal Complexes’ authored by Etelka Farkas and Imre Sóvágó covering the same period. Colleagues from the Medical University of Szeged (Botond Penke, Gábor Tóth and Györgyi Váradi) have continued with their wide-ranging Chapter 3 reviewing Analogue and Conformational Studies on Peptides. The continuing involvement of Don Elmore, Weng Chan, Avril Highton and John Davies from the UK has taken care of the other core Chapters. Sadly due to family commitments Graham Barrett had to relinquish the role of Joint Senior Reporter, but we are grateful to Graham for his contributions as an author within these Reports over many years. So the current volume has been co-ordinated by one Senior Reporter, who appreciates very much the genuine and unstinting efforts of everyone that has brought this Volume to fruition. This includes the RSC personnel, who have patiently waited for manuscripts to appear and ensured that everyone’s efforts have been transcribed to the document you are now reading.

Again to preserve good practice in presentation in peptide science, we are grateful for the permission to reproduce John Jones’s most recent plea for conformity of nomenclature in such a wide-ranging discipline. Over recent volumes of these Reports we have reproduced his ‘Short Guide to Abbreviations’ published in 1999, but this time we have the opportunity of re-printing the most recent version which appeared in *J. Peptide Science* 2006, **11**, pp. 1–12. During the production of this volume ‘Proceedings of the 18th American Symposium at Boston’ in 2003 (eds. M. Chorev and T. K. Sawyer) appeared. From the title of the book from these proceedings – *Peptide Revolution: Genomics, Proteomics and Therapeutics* – comes a hint as to where our subject might be heading.

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