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THE RIBOSOME
STRUCTURE, FUNCTION, & EVOLUTION

Edited by Walter E. Hill, University of Montana, Missoula; Albert Dahlberg,
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Copenhagen, Denmark; Peter B. Moore, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.;
David Schlessinger, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo.;
and Jonathan R. Warner, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, N.Y.

This comprehensive overview is a major new addition to literature on the ribosome, covering the structure, function, and evolution of this complex macromolecule in both procaryotic and eucaryotic systems. The authors, an international group of leading experts representing 13 countries, have written and illustrated their chapters for use by all life scientists, including those outside the field.

The book opens with a personal, historical retrospective and summary by Masayasu Nomura, followed by historical insights on ribosome preparation by Alexander S. Spirin. From there, chapters turn to recent developments in every arena of research into the ribosome. Much of the current knowledge about the detailed mechanisms by which the ribosome is involved in protein biosynthesis has only recently been delineated thanks to a host of new research techniques. Additional information about how antibiotics and ribosomes interact and a view of the ribosome in its evolutionary context are also included.

Arising from the August 1989 International Conference on Ribosomes, this reference will be extremely useful to advanced students as well as investigators whose work either directly or indirectly touches on this subject.

CONDENSED CONTENTS

Historical (2 chapters by Nomura and Spirin). Structure of Ribosomes and rRNA (12 chapters by Noller et al.; Brimacombe et al.; Frank et al.; Boublik, Mandidyan, and Tumminia; Stöffler-Meliche et al.; Yonath et al.; Ehresmann et al.; Draper; Egelberg; Larsen, and Garrett; Oakes et al.; Seldyk et al.; and Wool et al.). Probing rRNA Function (4 chapters by Rau et al.; Tapprich et al.; Cunningham et al.; and Hill et al.). Initiation (5 chapters by Van K缓冲enberg; Hartz, McPheeters, and Gold; Guraler et al.; Merrick; and Munroe and Jacobson). Elongation (8 chapters by Liljas; Rheinberger et al.; Zimmermann, Thomas, and Womer; Wintermeyer, Lill, and Robertson; Barta; Kuechler, and Steiner; Hardesty, Odom, and Cworkowski; Ehrenberg et al.; and Möller). Termination (2 chapters by Tate, Brown, and Kastrin and Murgola et al.). Ribosome Formation (7 chapters by Nilsson et al.; Pace and Burgin; Srivastava and Schlessinger; Musters et al.; Warner et al.; Gerbi et al.; and Wung and Khanna-Gupta). Antibiotic Mechanisms and Probes (3 chapters by Cundiff; Cooperman, Weitzmann, and Fernandez; and Ballesta and Lazarro). Translational Fidelity (6 chapters by Kurland et al.; Dix, Thomas, and Thompson; Weiss et al.; Buckingham et al.; Bogosian et al.; and Culberson et al.). Evolution of Ribosomes (8 chapters by Gouy and Li; Lake; Gray and Schnare; Wittmann-Liebold et al.; Matheson et al.; Finley, Bartel, and Varahavsky; Amils et al.; and Subramanian, Smooke, and Giese).

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The two volumes are divided into six parts, with a total of 104 chapters written by about 150 authors who are recognized authorities. The total number of literature citations must be nearly 20,000. Despite these encyclopaedic dimensions and its multi-author make-up, the treatise is remarkably free from the overlap and the imbalance that frequently mars this kind of enterprise. It is equally pleasing to be able to report that the majority of authors have succeeded in writing what their editors required of them: "thoughtful and narrative reviews" as opposed to mere compilations of data and references. . . . Overall we and other colleagues are very impressed by these books. . . . The editors have obviously put a lot of effort into this enterprise and played an effective disciplinary role in maintaining breadth without overlap, and a uniform style. There is nothing comparable available on the market and everyone working with, or teaching about, *E. coli* and *S. typhimurium* will find these books to be invaluable. Final year undergraduates and postgraduate students will also find them an excellent resource."

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