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# **Methods in IMMUNOLOGY and IMMUNOCHEMISTRY**

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**Volume I**

**Preparation of Antigens and Antibodies**

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## Preface

The rapid growth of research in immunochemistry and immunology warrants the initiation of an open-end treatise dealing with methodology. The increasing number of applications of immunological methodology to problems in other areas of biology dictates an organization, content, and style which will be helpful to the nonspecialist and specialist alike. Our aim, therefore, has been to open our colleagues' notebooks to bring together detailed procedures that are hard to retrieve from original literature. But the presentation and discussion of reliable methods are intended to provide confidence and guidance, not rigidity. The solution of research problems often demands inventive modifications and sometimes the development of new and specialized approaches. Accordingly, contributors were asked to include not only the details of procedures they had found most satisfactory in their own laboratory, but also critical remarks about common pitfalls and interpretation of results, references to alternative methods, and mention of applications to other problems. While not all topics are easily suited to this format, we feel that insofar as our general objectives are achieved, these volumes represent high potential energy.

Other publications have appeared with similar titles. Some are intended primarily for teaching purposes, others have appeared as reports of symposia. Many are excellent aids to workers in laboratories. None we have seen to date, however, encompasses the scope of the present volumes. Volume I is concerned with typical preparative methods employed in handling antigens, antibodies, and laboratory animals. Volume II presents general chemical and physicochemical methods of great usefulness for immunological research. Volume III is devoted to techniques for the analysis of the antigen-antibody reaction, both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Volume IV includes methods and interpretations of approaches to the study of the immune response. Unavoidably, some important general topics as well as many specific methods had to be postponed for subsequent volumes, which will treat hypersensitivity, transplantation, immunogenetics, immunity to parasites, and histochemistry, in addition to updating material already presented and introducing new fields of interest.



It would clearly be impossible to compile high quality material of this scope without the enthusiastic support and creative advice of the advisory editors. Their contributed sections, their help in suggesting topics and authors, and in some cases their assistance with the editing is not only greatly appreciated by us but, we are certain, will be appreciated by the users of these volumes.

CURTIS A. WILLIAMS  
MERRILL W. CHASE

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