Methods in Enzymology

Volume 74

Immunochemical Techniques

Part C

EDITED BY

John J. Langone

Helen Van Vunakis

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LABORATORY OF IMMUNOBIOLOGY
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
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Preface

The availability of immunochemical techniques to quantify antigens has revolutionized analytical technology. Immunoassays not only offer accurate estimates of individual substances in complex mixtures, but also can be uniquely useful in studies of antigen and antibody structure.

This volume continues the coverage of general immunochemical procedures begun in Volumes 70 and 73, Parts A and B, respectively, and also includes chapters that illustrate how antibodies have been used to gain important new information about the structure and activity of enzymes and receptors. Since immune complexes are increasingly important in clinical biochemistry and medicine, several chapters deal with their detection, estimation, and isolation. The opportunities to use antibodies as analytical reagents are growing at a rapid rate as techniques are simplified and the scientific community of nonimmunologists becomes acquainted with the basic principles required to produce and use antibodies to solve diverse research problems. We hope that Volume 74, Part C, along with Parts A and B, will display the basic array of immunochemical techniques and will inspire wider application of these methods.

Again we thank the authors for their excellent contributions, Carla Langone for dealing with the correspondence, and Dr. Adrian Gee for his expertise in indexing the volumes.

JOHN J. LANGONE
HELEN VAN VUNAKIS

METHODS IN ENZYMOLOGY

EDITED BY

Sidney P. Colowick and Nathan O. Kaplan

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- I. Preparation and Assay of Enzymes
- II. Preparation and Assay of Enzymes
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Section I

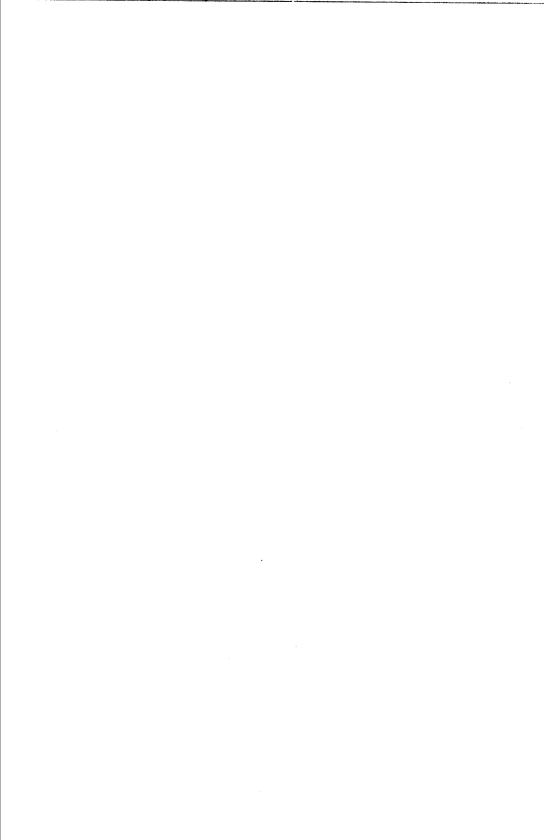
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 $\mathbf{A}^{\mathbf{V}}$



[1] Equilibrium and Kinetic Inhibition Assays Based upon Fluorescence Polarization

By Walter B. Dandliker, Mao-Lin Hsu, Jacques Levin, and B. Ramanath Rao

Introduction

Assays utilizing the high specificities of antibodies or other receptors make it possible to detect and quantify many substances present in only minute traces in complex biological materials. In the past two decades these assays have become one of the main analytical tools of biomedical science^{1,2} and efforts continue toward increasing the sensitivity, specificity, and convenience of such assays even further. 3 All of the methods in use depend upon labeling either the ligand being quantified or the receptor molecule (antibody, hormone receptor, etc.) being used to provide recognition. (In a few special cases where natural fluorescence of ligand or receptor can be utilized, labèling may be unnecessary.) The general types of label that afford the requisite sensitivity include radiolabels, enzyme labels, and fluorescence or phosphorescence labels. The readout of an assay then finally depends upon a determination of the amount of label present: by counting (radioimmunoassay or combined enzymatic radioimmunoassay), by measurement of an enzymatically produced product, by fluorescence or phosphorescence intensity (with or without time resolution) and by fluorescence polarization.

The polarization of fluorescence operates differently than the other methods of detection in that it gives a direct measure of the bound/free ratio instead of simply being a measure of amount of label present, i.e., the polarization is independent of concentration and for a given bound/free ratio remains constant over many orders of magnitude of change in the absolute concentrations. This characteristic provides a definite advantage for some situations in that the essential measurement can be made without any physical separation of bound and free. For example, where the measurement must be rapid or carried out by automated methods, the simplification provided by polarization measurements may be of crucial importance. However, in order to gain these advantages, the impact of several

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