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# METABOLIC INHIBITORS

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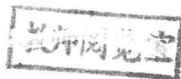
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# Metabolic Inhibitors

## *A Comprehensive Treatise*

*edited by*

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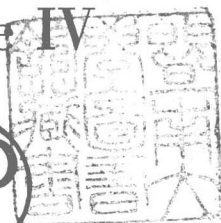
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**Volume IV**



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## Preface

Volume IV of this treatise continues the coverage begun in Volume III of recent developments in studies of inhibition of metabolic and enzymic processes. Articles on inhibition of photosynthesis, blood clotting, protein synthesis, fatty acid metabolism, and phospholipid metabolism are included as well as on inhibition of specific enzyme reactions such as amino acid activation, amino acid hydroxylation, and cyclic AMP formation. This volume also contains a contribution dealing specifically with allosteric inhibition and allosteric inhibitors.

It is inevitable that some overlapping of subject matter will be found in Volume IV, redundancy is difficult to avoid or rectify in a treatise such as this. However, the reader will probably benefit from any inadvertent repetition since coverage of similar topics from different points of view is bound to make for a deeper understanding of the subject.

Much of the burden of preliminary organization of the articles was carried by our coeditor Rolf Hochster; we dedicate this volume to his memory.

Our sincere thanks are due the contributors for their efforts in preparing their articles and for their patience in the face of the unavoidable delays encountered. We are grateful to the many authors and publishers who gave permission to use previously published material and to the staff of Academic Press for their fine spirit of cooperation during production of this volume. Mr. Paul Deroo again prepared the Subject Index for which we express our sincere appreciation.

Morris Kates  
J. H. Quastel

# Contents of Other Volumes

## *Volume I*

### Amino Acid Analogues

WILLIAM SHIVE AND CHARLES G. SKINNER

### Polypeptides and Proteins as Inhibitors

EDWARD J. MODEST, GEORGE E. FOLLEY, AND SIDNEY FARBER

### Hexose and Pentose Analogues

R. M. HOCHSTER

### Fatty Acids and Their Analogues

P. G. SCHOLEFIELD

### Phospholipids

J. B. DAVENPORT

### Purine Analogues

GEORGE H. HITCHINGS AND GERTRUDE B. ELION

### Pyrimidine Analogues

R. W. BROCKMAN AND E. P. ANDERSON

### Nucleic Acids and Nucleoproteins

K. A. O. ELLEM AND J. S. COLTER

### Inhibition of Amino Acid Decarboxylases

WILLIAM GILBERT CLARK

### Inhibitors, Antagonists, and Inactivators in the Etiology of Diabetes Mellitus in Man

I. ARTHUR MIRSKY

### Antagonists and Inhibitors of the Fat-Soluble Vitamins

J. GREEN

### Antimetabolites of the Water-Soluble Vitamins

D. W. WOOLLEY

### Sulfonamides and Folic Acid Antagonists

THOMAS H. JUKES AND HARRY P. BROQUIST

### Thyroxine Analogues

S. B. BARKER

### Inhibitors of Steroid Actions and Cholesterol and Steroid Biosynthesis

R. I. DORFMAN

### Author Index-Subject Index

## *Volume II*

### Dinucleotide Analogues and Related Substances

WILLARD J. JOHNSON

## Antibiotics

H. BOYD WOODRUFF AND IAN M. MILLER

## Monoamine and Polyamine Analogues

E. A. ZELLER

## Inhibitors of Catechol Amine Metabolism

T. L. SOURKES AND A. D'IORIO

## Sulphydryl Agents: Arsenicals

R. M. JOHNSTONE

## Mercaptide-Forming Agents

N. B. MADSEN

## Enzyme Inhibition by Quinones

O. HOFFMANN-OSTENHOF

## Biological Alkylating Agents

J. M. JOHNSON AND F. BERGEL

## Inhibition of Acetylcholinesterase

IRWIN B. WILSON

## Organophosphates and Carbamates

R. D. O'BRIEN

## Herbicides

W. A. ANDREAE

## Fungicides as Metabolic Inhibitors

SAUL RICH AND JAMES G. HORSFALL

## Trypanocidal Agents

BRUCE A. NEWTON

## Cations and Anions: Inhibitions and Interactions in Metabolism and in Enzyme Activity

E. J. HEWITT AND D. J. D. NICHOLAS

## Polyanionic Inhibitors

PETER BERNFELD

## Inhibitions in the Citric Acid Cycle

J. H. QUASTEL

## Uncouplers and Inhibitors of Oxidative Phosphorylation

E. C. SLATER

## Effects of Anesthetics, Depressants, and Tranquilizers on Cerebral Metabolism

J. H. QUASTEL

## Inhibitors of Gas Transport

Q. H. GIBSON

## Selective Inhibitors of Photosynthesis

MANUEL LOSADA AND DANIEL I. ARNON

## Inhibitors of Nitrogen Fixation

CLIVE BRADBEER AND P. W. WILSON

## Inhibitors of Nitrification

H. LEES

## Inhibition Due to Radiation

R. GOUTIER AND Z. M. BACQ

## Author Index-Subject Index

*Volume III*Inhibition of Transport Reactions *A. Inhibitors of ATPase:NaK-ATPase and Related Enzyme Activities*

NORMAN B. GLICK

Inhibition of Transport Reactions *B. Sugars*

VINCENT P. CIRILLO

Inhibition of Transport Reactions *C. Control of Amino Acid Transfer*

P. A. SANFORD AND D. H. SMYTH

## Inhibitors of Immune Reactions

ALAN C. AISENBERG

## Repressors and Derepressors of Gene Activity

E. H. CREASER

## Inhibitors of RNA and DNA Biosynthesis

SHAN-CHING SUNG

## Genetic Deletions

V. N. IYER

## Inhibitors of Animal Virus Replication

YASUSHI WATANABE

## Inhibitors of Plant Viruses and Mycoplasma

R. C. SINHA

## Novel Antibiotics as Metabolic Inhibitors

FRANKLIN M. HAROLD

## Polypeptide and Protein Hormones as Inhibitors

J. RAMACHANDRAN

## Inhibition of Isozymes

ELLIOT S. VESELL

## Author Index-Subject Index



# Contents

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS .....	ix
PREFACE .....	xi
CONTENTS OF OTHER VOLUMES .....	xii

## CHAPTER 1

### Allosteric Inhibitors

R. W. MILLER

I. Introduction .....	2
II. Limiting Models for Allosteric Inhibition .....	3
III. Methods That Probe Mechanisms of Allosteric Inhibition .....	13
IV. Variation of Allosteric Properties among Source Organisms .....	16
V. Classes of Allosteric Inhibitors .....	17
VI. Allosteric Inhibition of Specific Enzymes .....	23
VII. Allosteric Inhibition in Enzyme Complexes and Membrane Systems ...	38
References .....	40

## CHAPTER 2

### Amino Acid Hydroxylase Inhibitors

EDITH G. McGEER and PATRICK L. McGEER

I. Introduction .....	45
II. Properties of the Enzymes .....	46
III. <i>In Vitro</i> Inhibitors of the Hydroxylases .....	56
IV. <i>In Vivo</i> Inhibitors of the Hydroxylases .....	71
V. Indirect Mechanisms of Inhibition .....	84
VI. Conclusion .....	89
References .....	90

## CHAPTER 3

**Inhibitors of Amino Acid Activation**

ROBERT B. LOFTFIELD

I. Introduction .....	107
II. Noncompetitive Inhibitors .....	111
III. Competitive Inhibitors .....	114
IV. Conclusion .....	123
References .....	127

## CHAPTER 4

**Inhibitors of Protein Synthesis**

C. T. CASKEY

I. Introduction .....	131
II. Protein Biosynthesis .....	132
III. Inhibitors of Peptide Chain Initiation .....	139
IV. Inhibitors of Peptide Chain Elongation .....	144
V. Inhibitors of Peptide Chain Termination .....	163
VI. Premature Peptide Chain Termination .....	165
VII. Other Inhibitors .....	167
VIII. Summary .....	169
References .....	170

## CHAPTER 5

**Inhibition of Photosynthesis**

N. E. GOOD and S. IZAWA

I. Introduction .....	180
II. The Overall Mechanism of Photosynthesis .....	180
III. Light-Dependent Reactions of Chloroplast Lamellae .....	181
IV. Partial Reactions of Photosynthesis in Isolated Chloroplast Lamellae ..	184
V. Inhibitions of Electron Transport and Phosphorylation in Chloroplast Lamellae .....	185
VI. Inhibition of the Fixation and Reduction of Carbon Dioxide .....	201
VII. Photorespiration and the Inhibition of Photosynthesis by Oxygen .....	204
VIII. Indirect Inhibitions and the Physiological Control of Photosynthesis ...	206
IX. Conclusion .....	209
References .....	210

## CHAPTER 6

**Inhibitors of Blood-Clotting Mechanisms**

PETER G. BARTON and E. THYE YIN

I. Introduction .....	216
II. Inhibitors of Enzyme Action .....	231
III. Inhibitors of Coagulant Protein Biosynthesis .....	260
IV. Hereditary Inhibitors .....	265
V. Acquired Circulating Anticoagulants .....	267
VI. Fibrinogen Degradation Products .....	272
VII. Inhibitors of Lipids and Lipoproteins .....	276
VIII. Inhibitors of Intravascular Coagulation and Thrombosis .....	280
IX. The Role of Heparin in Blood Coagulation .....	282
X. Concluding Remarks .....	284
References .....	289

## CHAPTER 7

**Inhibitors of Fatty Acid Oxidation and the Pathway of Fatty Acid Biosynthesis from Glucose**

I. B. FRITZ and M. HALPERIN

I. Fatty Acid Oxidation .....	311
II. Inhibition of Pathways of Fatty Acid Synthesis .....	321
III. Concluding Comments .....	340
References .....	342

## CHAPTER 8

**Inhibitors of Enzymes of Phospholipid and Sphingolipid Metabolism**

SHIMON GATT

I. Introduction .....	350
II. Phospholipid Hydrolases .....	351
III. Glycosphingolipid Hydrolases .....	361
IV. Synthesis of the Glycerophosphatides .....	365
V. Synthesis of Phospho- and Glycosphingolipids .....	369
VI. Metabolism of the Sphingosine Bases .....	372
VII. Summary and Conclusions .....	372
References .....	382

## CHAPTER 9

**Inhibitors and Activators of Enzymes Regulating the Cellular Concentration of Cyclic AMP**

SHAIL K. SHARMA

I. Introduction .....	389
II. Distribution, Subcellular Location, Purification, and Properties of Adenyl Cyclase and Cyclic AMP Phosphodiesterase .....	391
III. Regulation of Intracellular Levels of Cyclic AMP .....	395
IV. Regulation of Cyclic AMP Formation in Cells in Culture .....	419
V. Adenyl Cyclase and Phosphodiesterase in Relation to Age .....	420
VI. Role of Lipids in the Activation of Adenyl Cyclase by Hormones .....	421
VII. Modification of Adenyl Cyclase in Various Physiological and Pathological Conditions .....	421
VIII. Concluding Remarks .....	422
References .....	423
AUTHOR INDEX .....	435
SUBJECT INDEX .....	487

## CHAPTER 1

# Allosteric Inhibitors

R. W. Miller

I. Introduction.....	2
II. Limiting Models for Allosteric Inhibition.....	3
A. Models Requiring Changes in Conformational State.....	9
B. Models Postulating Multiple Reaction Pathways or Time-Dependent Enzyme Activity (Transient Forms).....	10
III. Methods That Probe Mechanisms of Allosteric Inhibition.....	13
A. Kinetic Methods.....	13
B. Chemical Methods.....	14
C. Physical Probes.....	15
IV. Variation of Allosteric Properties among Source Organisms.....	16
V. Classes of Allosteric Inhibitors.....	17
A. Nucleotides.....	17
B. Amino Acids.....	22
C. Carbohydrates.....	22
D. Inorganic Ions and Miscellaneous Inhibitors.....	23
VI. Allosteric Inhibition of Specific Enzymes.....	23
A. Lactate Dehydrogenase.....	24
B. Malic Enzymes.....	25
C. Isocitrate Dehydrogenase.....	26
D. L-Glutamate Dehydrogenase.....	27
E. Aspartate Transcarbamylase.....	30
F. Glutamine Synthetase.....	34
G. Phosphorylase b.....	35
H. Phosphofructokinase.....	37
VII. Allosteric Inhibition in Enzyme Complexes and Membrane Systems.....	38
References.....	40

## I. INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>

Feedback inhibition has become a well-established concept in the search for metabolic control mechanisms that regulate the rate of metabolite synthesis. The discovery that end products of biosynthetic pathways may inhibit directly the initial reactions of the pathway provides an attractive explanation for the precise metabolic homeostasis that is essential in all organisms. However, direct *in vivo* observations of enzymic feedback phenomena generally are not possible due to problems of transport of metabolites across membranes and the presence of other regulatory processes such as enzyme repression. Therefore, the study of the effects of inhibitors on the quaternary structure, tertiary structure, catalytic activity, and affinity for substrates of purified enzymes has produced a great deal of information as to how inhibitors may modulate the rates of catalyzed processes.

A particularly significant type of enzyme inhibition has been examined intensively in recent years and has emerged as a plausible mechanism for the general hypothesis of feedback regulation of metabolic transformations. Enzymes that display anomalous order (higher than one) with respect to a substrate or coenzyme produce sigmoidal plots of reaction velocity versus ligand concentrations. Inhibitors are often observed to increase the order of the reaction with respect to substrate or to give inhibition patterns that lead to a change in the  $V_{\max}$ ,  $K_m$  (substrate concentration which gives half-maximal reaction velocity, referred to as  $S_{0.5}$ ), or other parameters that describe binding and rates of catalysis by enzymes. Inhibitors that bind at a site remote from the catalytic site and produce effects of this type are referred to as allosteric inhibitors or negative effectors as opposed to compounds that modify, sterically block, bind at, or otherwise interfere directly with the catalytic site. Depending on the type of chemical transformation inhibited (i.e., single- or multiple-substrate reactions), characteristic and diagnostic kinetic data are obtained which may lead to detailed physical and chemical studies. These combined methods have greatly increased knowledge of regulatory phenomena. In this area it is somewhat artificial to distinguish between allosteric inhibitors and allosteric activators since similar mechanisms have been proposed (1) for both. However, since

<sup>1</sup>Standard abbreviations are used for purine and pyrimidine nucleotides. NAD and NADP are used for nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide and nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate, respectively.

allosteric inhibitors account for many cases of feedback regulation this chapter will emphasize the former. Table I lists allosteric inhibitors and the enzymes they may control. It is apparent that by far the largest number of compounds represented are purine and pyrimidine nucleotides. Indeed, Atkinson (2, 3) has proposed that many enzymes respond to the relative concentrations of adenine nucleotides (AMP, ADP, ATP, cyclic 3',5'-AMP) rather than to the concentration of a single inhibitor or activator.

Many enzymes have more than one negative effector. While there are many well-known examples of feedback inhibition listed in Table I, there is no apparent limitation of allosteric inhibition to end products of metabolic pathways. Inorganic anions and cations, antibiotics, complex carbohydrates, and other seemingly unrelated compounds can bind at remote receptor sites and cause allosteric effects which, while they may represent control mechanisms in the general sense, are not associated with feedback control of metabolism. However, metabolic regulation is clearly an extremely complex and subtle process, and relationships between biosynthetic reactions and their allosteric inhibitors are not necessarily always as obvious as end-product inhibition.

## II. LIMITING MODELS FOR ALLOSTERIC INHIBITION

Several limiting mechanistic models have been proposed to explain the behavior of allosteric enzymes. The models attempt to account for the sigmoidal shape of plots of reaction velocity (or fractional binding-site saturation) against substrate or effector concentration. Data of this type have generally suggested cooperative interactions between subunits of an oligomeric protein where the binding of effector molecules at a regulatory site may change the binding constant for substrate (*K*-type system) or may influence the activity of the catalytic site (*V*-type system) or both. Curve 2 of Fig. 1 (4) shows cooperative behavior for a well-documented allosteric enzyme, aspartate transcarbamylase. This enzyme catalyzes the first step in pyrimidine biosynthesis and is inhibited by the end product of that pathway, cytidine triphosphate. Cytidine triphosphate is a true allosteric inhibitor; that is, it decreases the reaction rate at low substrate concentrations by increasing the dependence of the rate on the concentration of substrate molecules.

Control curve 2 of Fig. 1 shows a dependence on substrate concentration that is anomalous since ordinary substrate dependence would

give a typical hyperbolic curve. An effector molecule could modify this cooperative effect so as to produce more or less cooperativity. The negative effector CTP increases the order of the dependence of activity on substrate concentration in the case of aspartate transcarbamylase (curve 3). The cooperative interactions associated with molecules of the same ligand are designated homotropic, while interactions involving the inhibitor (CTP) or the activator (AMP) and the substrate are heterotropic. The allosteric activator AMP changes the curve to a rectangular hyperbola which is the response expected in the absence of substrate-induced cooperative interactions. Heating the enzyme also eliminates cooperativity (Curve 1, Fig. 1). With the native enzyme the rate, in the absence of ligands other than substrate, is slower than expected from a normal hyperbolic response. This effect suggests that the substrate must

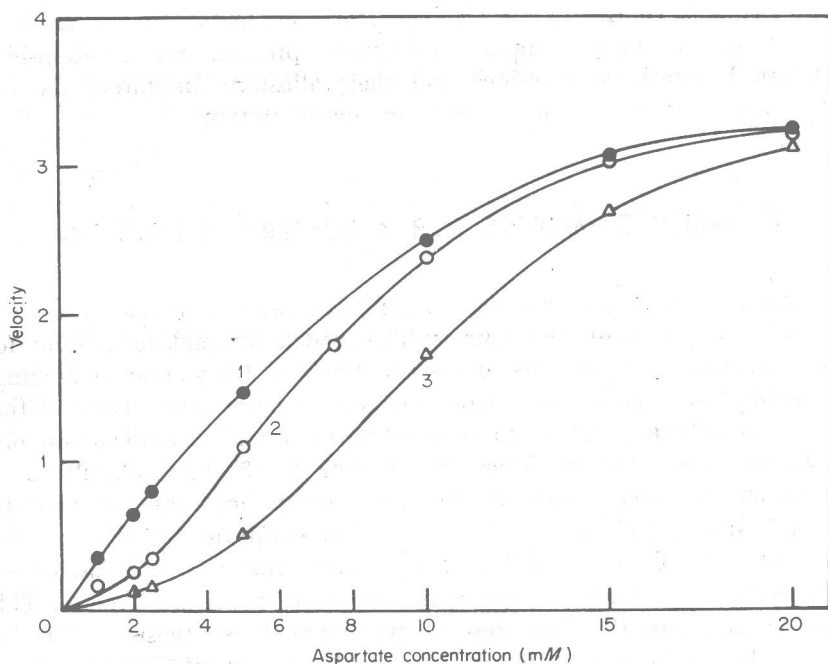


Fig. 1. Dependence of reaction rate on aspartate concentration at pH 7.0. Velocity expressed as units of activity per milligram of protein  $\times 10^{-2}$ . Legend:  $\bigcirc$ , native enzyme;  $\bullet$ , heated enzyme; and  $\triangle$ , native enzyme in the presence of 0.1 mM CTP. Assay mixtures contained 0.05 M tris at pH 7.0, 3.3 mM carbamyl phosphate, aspartate as indicated, and 0.75  $\mu$ g enzyme protein/ml. [Reprinted from Weitzman and Wilson (4) by permission of the copyright owner. Copyright (1966) by the American Society of Biological Chemists.]



convert the enzyme to a more active form for maximum reaction velocity to occur and is designated positive homotropic cooperativity. If in the presence of an activator the rate of reaction at low substrate concentration is greater than that expected from a hyperbolic relationship, the implication is that increased substrate concentrations convert the enzyme to a less active form. This type of interaction is labeled negative homotropism.

Since both types of behavior are reported for some enzymes it is important to diagnose the type of cooperativity present in a given system. Also, some models allow only positive homotropic cooperativity and kinetic analysis enables the investigator to distinguish between models. Allosteric inhibitors lead to more positive homotropic cooperativity. In this chapter inhibitors falling in the category of effectors that change cooperativity between substrate molecules by binding at a site remote from the catalytic center will be considered mainly. Inhibitors such as reaction products that bind or interfere directly at the catalytic site, some of which also may be described as feedback inhibitors, will not be considered. Also, noncompetitive inhibition (i.e., change of  $V_{\max}$ ), which is often observed with multisubstrate enzymes, will not be discussed unless evidence for interaction of the inhibitor at a separate allosteric site or for an effect on the cooperative behavior of one of the substrates is available. Noncompetitive inhibition can result from direct interaction with the active site in multisubstrate cases. Just as some allosteric activators may produce negative homotropic interactions for substrate molecules, allosteric inhibitor molecules may exhibit negative or positive homotropic interactions depending on whether increasing the concentration of the inhibitor produces more or less drop in activity than expected from a normal hyperbolic inhibitor response. Again, diagnosis of the type of cooperativity for the inhibitor being observed is important in ascribing kinetic phenomena to an appropriate mechanistic model.

Allosteric inhibition may be competitive, in the sense that it is completely overcome at high substrate concentrations (pure  $K$ -type system), or partially noncompetitive. Lineweaver-Burk plots obtained with allosteric enzymes may be straight lines but are generally curved [see Fig. 2 (5)]. Thus, in the presence or absence of heterotropic ligands a hyperbolic response of reaction velocity to substrate concentration yields a straight Lineweaver-Burk plot, while positive homotropic interactions give an upward curvature and negative homotropism causes a downward curvature. Mahler and Cordes (5a) and Fargo and Denes (5b) give further graphical information that is useful in identifying the different types of cooperative interactions.