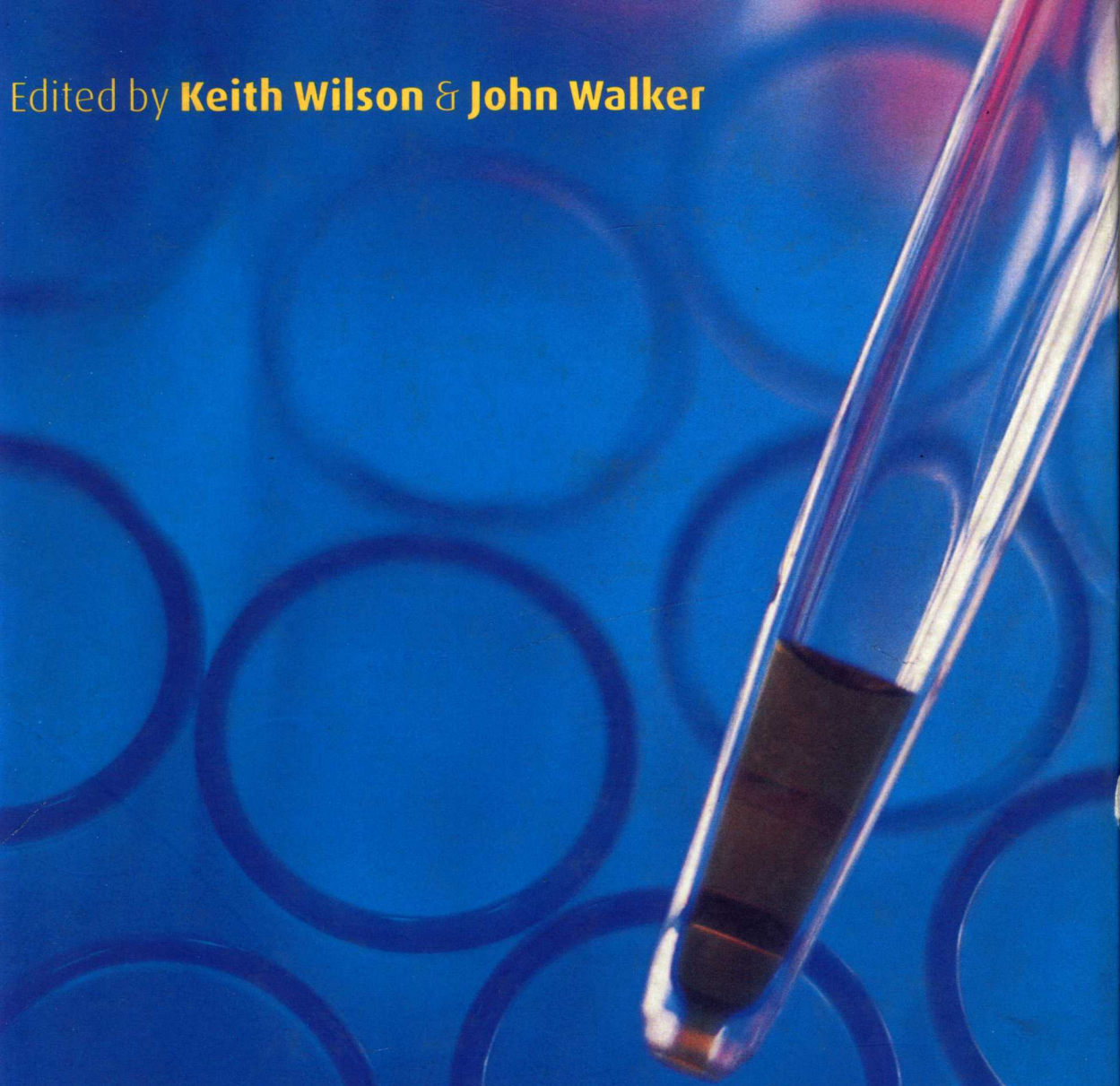
Edited by **Keith Wilson** & **John Walker**



Principles and Techniques of Practical Biochemistry

Fifth edition

Essential reading for all bioscience undergraduate students and pre-clinical medical students for whom practical biochemistry, molecular biology and immunology form part of the syllabus

Principles and Techniques of

Practical Biochemistry

Edited by Keith Wilson and John Walker

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK http://www.cup.cam.ac.uk
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA http://www.cup.org
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain

First published by Edward Arnold 1975
as *A biologist's guide to principles and techniques of practical biochemistry*
Second edition 1981
Third edition 1986
Third edition first published by Cambridge University Press 1992
Reprinted 1993
Fourth edition published by Cambridge University Press 1994 as
Principles and techniques of practical biochemistry
Reprinted 1995, 1997
Fifth edition 2000

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typeset in Proforma 9.5/13pt, and Dax, in QuarkXPress™ [SE]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Principles and techniques of practical biochemistry/edited by Keith Wilson and John M. Walker. – 5th ed.
p. cm.
Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN 0 521 65104 2 (hardbound)
1. Biochemistry – Methodology. I. Wilson, Keith, 1936– .
II. Walker, John M., 1948– .
QP519.7.P75 1999
572–dc21 98–37214 CIP

ISBN 0 521 65104 2 hardback (fifth edition)
ISBN 0 521 65873 X paperback (fifth edition)
ISBN 0521 41769 4 (fourth edition)

Principles and Techniques of

Practical Biochemistry

In this new, fifth edition of a highly popular text, undergraduate students are introduced to all the basic experimental techniques used routinely in practical biochemistry today. Most attention is given to techniques that students will encounter in their practical classes, with the principles and theories behind them explained in detail to aid understanding. As a further aid to students, example calculations and worked answers appear at the ends of most chapters. 'Key terms' to understand are also included to help students thoroughly review each topic.

No contemporary book on modern biochemical techniques would be complete without chapters on molecular biology, recombinant DNA technology, genetic analysis, protein purification and biomolecular interactions, and these topics have been extensively covered in this new edition.

The book is essential reading for all bioscience undergraduate students and preclinical medical students for whom practical biochemistry, molecular biology and immunology form part of the syllabus.

KEITH WILSON is Professor of Pharmacological Biochemistry and Director of Research Degrees, and JOHN WALKER is Professor and Head of the Department of Biosciences, both at the University of Hertfordshire.

Preface to the fifth edition

Teachers of genetics, cell biology, biochemistry and physiology are acutely aware of the rapid expansion of the knowledge base of their subjects that has taken place in the recent past. Each weekly batch of journals provides new discoveries for inclusion in an already crowded curriculum. Much of this expansion is the direct result of developments in molecular genetics, in particular of protocols for gene cloning and expression, which have resulted in routine procedures for the identification, cloning, sequencing and expression of genes for proteins ranging in function from metabolic enzymes and structural proteins to membrane receptors and regulatory proteins. The advent of such routine procedures has revolutionised our understanding of biological processes at the molecular level and has resulted in the coalescing of previously disparate disciplines. At the same time, this new knowledge of the molecular nature of biological processes has been exploited to medical and commercial advantages. Even the layperson has been made aware of application of molecular biology to areas as divergent as archaeology, plant and animal breeding, diagnostic tests for a wide range of inherited conditions, and new approaches to the diagnosis and treatment of chronic illnesses, particularly cancer. The decoding of the genome of many unicellular organisms and rapid progress on the Human Genome Project, which is now projected to be completed in the early years of the new millennium, promises even more spectacular applications in the future.

These advances in molecular biology have been paralleled, and in some cases made possible, by equally fundamental developments in immunology, cell culture, protein analysis and techniques such as chromatography, electrophoresis, mass spectrometry and various forms of spectroscopy. In planning this new edition of our book, our challenge has been to incorporate details of these developments whilst retaining our original aim, namely to concentrate on those techniques and principles which underlie practical exercises that undergraduates in all the biological sciences can expect to encounter in their practical classes and to cover in less detail the more sophisticated techniques that have made possible the advances they will learn about in their lectures and associated reading. In accordance with this aim, we have decided to cover techniques in molecular biology in greater detail than in earlier editions. There are now two chapters devoted to this area. Chapter 2 deals with the basic theoretical and practical details and Chapter 3

concentrates on their applications. Both chapters have been written by Dr Ralph Rapley, a new contributor to our book. Chapter 4, on immunological techniques, has also been completely rewritten by Susan and Robin Thorpe, from the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control, also new contributors to the book. A new chapter on protein purification has been introduced to emphasise its central importance in modern practical biology (Chapter 6). Whilst previous editions have devoted a chapter to enzyme techniques, no opportunity has previously been taken to emphasise similarities between enzyme–substrate (or inhibitor) binding and the binding of ligands to membrane receptors and membrane transporters. In view of the fundamental and physiologically important advances that have been made in our understanding of cell–cell interactions and the associated signal transduction and amplification processes, a new chapter has been introduced covering these important topics (Chapter 8).

The two chapters on spectroscopic and spectrometric techniques have been revised so that they are now presented in three chapters. Chapters 9 and 10 deal with those methods that are based on quantum principles and cover such important techniques as visible and ultraviolet spectroscopy, fluorimetry, luminescent spectroscopy, circular dichroism, turbidimetry, nephelometry and atomic absorption (Chapter 9), and infrared spectroscopy, electron spin resonance spectroscopy and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (including magnetic resonance imaging) (Chapter 10). Chapter 11 gives a detailed account of the various forms of mass spectrometry and includes a discussion of its use in protein structure determination, an application unthought of only a few years ago. Throughout the three chapters, opportunities have been taken to stress the complementary nature of spectroscopic and spectrometric data by considering the applications of the various techniques to the molecule phenacetin.

The chapters on centrifugation techniques (Chapter 5), electrophoresis (Chapter 12), chromatography (Chapter 13), radioisotope techniques (Chapter 14), and electrochemical techniques (Chapter 15) have all been updated. Throughout the book, emphasis has been placed on the quantitative nature of practical biochemistry. Nearly all chapters, therefore, now include a set of calculations, with answers, to enable students to test their understanding of the principles being covered. To further help students identify the key topics, each chapter also includes a section of 'key terms' to understand, together with another on suggestions for further reading. Inevitably, many of the chapters deal with common topics and every effort has been made to cross-reference to other chapters and minimise unnecessary duplication. However, a small amount of duplication between chapters has deliberately been retained, particularly in places where the slightly different approaches adopted by the authors were felt to add to the overall understanding and presentation. Many chapters make reference to common thermodynamic principles and equations. To strengthen, and thereby emphasise, the importance of thermodynamics to biochemical principles, a new section on the subject has been introduced in Chapter 1. This chapter now also includes worked numerical examples, some of a very fundamental, practical kind, which are truly basic to all practical work, but which many undergraduates initially have

difficulty in handling. Examples include the difference between concentration and amount, calculation of pH and various thermodynamic values. We hope the innovation will prove helpful to our readers. In producing the new edition we have attempted to incorporate the many helpful suggestions made by readers of the fourth edition. We continue to welcome comments from all those who use the book as part of their studies and wish to express our gratitude to the many authors who have granted us permission to reproduce their copyright figures.

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Abbreviations

The following abbreviations have been used throughout this book without definition:

AMP	adenosine 5′-monophosphate
ADP	adenosine 5′-diphosphate
ATP	adenosine 5′-triphosphate
bp	base-pairs
CHAPS	3-[(3-chloramidopropyl)dimethylamino]-1-propanesulphonic acid
c.p.m.	counts per minute
DDT	2,2-bis-(*p*-chlorophenyl)-1,1,1-trichlorethane
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
d.p.m.	disintegrations per minute
e^-	electron
EDTA	ethylenediaminetetra-acetate
EGTA	[ethylenebis (oxonitrilo)] tetra-acetic acid
e.m.f.	electromotive force
FAD	flavin adenine dinucleotide
FMN	flavin mononucleotide
HAT	hypoxanthine, aminopterin, thymidine medium
Hepes	4(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazine-ethanesulphonic acid
kb	kilobase-pairs
log	logarithm to the base 10
M_r	relative molecular mass
min	minute
NAD^+	nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (oxidised)
NADH	nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (reduced)
$NADP^+$	nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (oxidised)
$NADPH^+$	nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (reduced)
Pipes	1,4-piperazinediethanesulphonic acid
P_i	inorganic phosphate
PP_i	inorganic pyrophosphate
p.p.m.	parts per million
RNA	ribonucleic acid
s.t.p.	standard temperature and pressure
Tris	2-amino-2-hydroxymethylpropane-1,3-diol

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