

PERSPECTIVES IN BIOANALYSIS

VOLUME 2

NEW HIGH THROUGHPUT TECHNOLOGIES FOR DNA SEQUENCING AND GENOMICS



KEITH R. MITCHELSON (EDITOR)

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EDITOR

KEITH R. MITCHELSON

Capitalbio Corporation:

NATIONAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTRE
FOR BEIJING BIOCHIP TECHNOLOGY

18 LIFE SCIENCE PARKWAY

CHANGPING DISTRICT

BEIJING 102206

CHINA

AND

MEDICAL SYSTEMS BIOLOGY RESEARCH CENTER
TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
BEIJING 100084
CHINA

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Contributors

Numbers in parentheses indicate the pages where the authors' contributions can be found.

- **P.** Adams (303), Department of Mathematics, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland 4072, Australia
- **J. J. Austin** (357), Department of Environmental Biology, University of Adelaide, North Terrace, Adelaide 5005, South Australia, Australia
- **Dirk van den Boom** (97), Sequenom Corporation, 3595 John Hopkins Court, San Diego, CA 92121, USA
- **I. Braslavsky** (209), Department of Physics and Astronomy, Clippinger 251B, Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701, USA
- **D. E. Bryant** (303), Department of Mathematics, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland 4072, Australia
- J. C. Carter (303), Leukaemia Foundation Queensland Laboratories, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Herston, Queensland 4006, Australia
- **J. Cheng** (45), Capitalbio Corporation: National Engineering Research Center for Beijing Biochip Technology, Beijing, 18 Life Science Parkway, Changping District, Beijing 102206, China; and the Medical Systems Biology Research Center, Tsinghua University School of Medicine, Beijing 100084, China
- **D. A. E. Cochran** (303), Agen Biomedical Limited, Durbell Street, Acacia Ridge, Queensland 4110, Australia
- **J. R. Edwards** (187), Columbia Genome Center, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion, 1150 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York, NY 10032, USA
- M. Ehrich (97), Sequenom Corporation, 3595 John Hopkins Court, San Diego, CA 92121, USA
- C. W. Fuller (119), GE Healthcare, 800 Centennial Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08855, USA
- **P. S. Gooding** (357), Agricultural Division AGRF, Plant Genomics Centre, University of Adelaide, Hartley Grove, Waite Campus PMB1, Glen Osmond, SA 5064, Australia
- **D. B. Hawkes** (3,303), AGRF, Institute of Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland 4072, Australia
- **B.** Hebert (209), Department of Physics, McGill University, Rutherford Physics Building 228, 3600 University Street, Montreal, Quebec H3A 2T8, Canada
- **J. Herschleb** (265), Laboratory for Molecular and Computational Genomics, UW Biotechnology Center, Laboratory of Genetics and Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin, 425 Henry Mall, Madison 53706, USA

xii Contributors

F. Hillenkamp (97), Institute for Medical Physics and Biophysics, University of Münster, Robert-Koch-Str. 31, Münster D-48149, Germany

- T. P. Jarvie (153), 454 Life Sciences Corporation, 20 Commercial Street, Branford, CT 06405, USA
- **J. Ju** (187), Columbia Genome Center, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion, 1150 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York, NY 10032, USA
- **J. M. Keith** (303), Institute of Molecular Bioscience and Department of Mathematics, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland 4072, Australia
- **D. H. Kim** (187), Columbia Genome Center, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion, 1150 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York, NY 10032, USA
- **J. R. Knight** (153), 454 Life Sciences Corporation, 20 Commercial Street, Branford, CT 06405, USA
- **G. A. Kowalchuk** (357), Netherlands Institute of Ecology, PO Box 40, 6666 ZG Heteren, The Netherlands
- S. Kumar (119), GE Healthcare, 800 Centennial Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08855, USA. Present Address: 21 Muirhead Court, Belle Mead, NJ 08502, USA
- J. W. Lee (245), Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6194, USA
- M. Margulies (153), 454 Life Sciences Corporation, 20 Commercial Street, Branford, CT 06405, USA
- **A. McGrath** (327), Australian Genome Research Facility, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland 4072, Australia
- **A. Meller** (245), The Department of Physics and Biomedical Engineering, Boston University, 44 Cummington Street, Boston, MA 02215, USA
- **A. E. Men** (3), AGRF, Institute of Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland 4072, Australia
- **K. R. Mitchelson** (3,303), Capitalbio Corporation: National Engineering Research Centre for Beijing Biochip Technology, 18 Life Science Parkway, Changping District, Beijing 102206, China; and Medical Systems Biology Research Center, Tsinghua University School of Medicine, Beijing 100084, China
- **D. C. Schwartz** (265), Laboratory for Molecular and Computational Genomics, UW Biotechnology Center, Laboratory of Genetics and Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin, 425 Henry Mall, Madison 53706, WI, USA
- **J. F. Simons** (153), 454 Life Sciences Corporation, 20 Commercial Street, Branford, CT 06405, USA
- **J. R. Stephen** (357), Agricultural Division AGRF, Plant Genomics Centre, University of Adelaide, Hartley Grove, Waite Campus PMB1, Glen Osmond, SA 5064, Australia
- **R. Turakulov** (3), AGRF, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research, 1G Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3050, Australia

Contributors xiii

Q. Xiong (45), Capitalbio Corporation: National Engineering Research Center for Beijing Biochip Technology, 18 Life Science Parkway, Beijing 102206, China

S. Zhou (265), Laboratory for Molecular and Computational Genomics, UW Biotechnology Center, Laboratory of Genetics and Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin, 425 Henry Mall, Madison 53706, WI, USA

Preface

Since the independent invention of DNA sequencing by Sanger and by Gilbert 30 years ago, it has grown from a small-scale technique capable of reading several kilobase-pair of sequence per day into today's multibillion dollar 'industry', with large Sequencing Centers for large-scale delineation of entire genomes, and supporting DNA sequencing activity at some level at virtually all Universities and larger hospitals throughout the world. We are now in a "post-genomic era" with possibly more than 150 billion base-pair of sequence information held at international Bioinformatics Centers, yet DNA sequencing continues as a major diagnostic and research activity in many areas of life science and medicine. This growth has spurred the development of new sequencing technologies that do not involve either electrophoresis or Sanger sequencing chemistries. Sequencing by synthesis (SBS) involves multiple parallel micro-sequencing addition events occurring on a surface, where data from each round is detected by imaging. The recent plan to sequence a complete Neandertal genome (Homo sapiens neanderthalensis) by the 454 Life Sciences and the Max Planck Institute using SBS underlines the relevance of these new sequencing technologies to post-genomic science. This will be the second entire human genome project, and it is expected to radically advance knowledge of the human genomic biology and provide profound new insights into genetic diseases in man.

This volume brings together some of the new developments in DNA sequencing technology. Reviews of complementary developments in Sanger and SBS sequencing chemistries (Kumar and Fuller), capillary electrophoresis and micro-device integration (Xiong and Cheng), MS sequencing (Ehrich et al.) and applications (Mitchelson et al.) set the framework. Reviews of new developments in SBS technology (Margulies et al.), the chemistry of nucleotide-dye SBS sequencing (Edwards et al.), and steps toward realizing the sequencing of single DNA molecules by cyclic synthesis (Hebert and Braslavsky), nano-pore sequencing (Lee and Meller) and optical mapping of arrayed DNA (Schwartz et al.) indicate the latest advances. Finally, bioinformatics tools for genome assembly (McGrath), sequencing ancient and environmental DNA samples (Kowalchuk et al.) and support for SBS sequence assembly (Keith et al.) discuss many issues relevant to new applications using SBS sequencing. The authors hope this volume will provide stimulus to both students and researchers interested in this vital field of chemistry and technological innovation.

July 2006 Keith Mitchelson

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Enabling Technologies



Chapter 1

Overview: Developments in DNA Sequencing

Keith R. Mitchelson,^{1,2} David B. Hawkes,³ Rustam Turakulov⁴ and Artem E. Men³

¹Capitalbio Corporation: National Engineering Research Centre for Beijing Biochip Technology, 18 Life Science Parkway, Changping District, Beijing 102206, China ²Medical Systems Biology Research Center, Tsinghua University School of Medicine, Beijing 100084, China

³AGRF, Institute of Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland 4072, Australia

⁴AGRF, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research, 1G Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3050, Australia

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