

*Sidney P. Colowick and Nathan O. Kaplan*

# Methods in ENZYMOLOGY

Volume 81

Biomembranes

Part H

Visual Pigments and Purple Membranes, I

*Edited by*

Lester Packer

*Methods in Enzymology*

*Volume 81*

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*Visual Pigments and Purple Membranes, I*

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*Lester Packer*

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## Preface

The study of retinoproteins associated with invertebrate and vertebrate visual photoreceptors and bacteria has gathered considerable momentum in recent years. This progress has been made possible by the development of new methods of membrane research and new physical and chemical techniques that have proved particularly useful for the investigation of retinoproteins. Increased interest in retinoproteins has also been greatly enhanced by the discovery of new and interesting pigments associated with visual photoreceptors or energy transformations in bacteria. Until recently, however, no attempt has been made to bring together in one volume the methodologies used for the study of these pigments. In this volume, Part H, we have attempted to meet this need by collecting brief but incisive descriptions of the state-of-the-art methods for the study of visual pigments. The majority of articles, therefore, are brief and to-the-point descriptions of specific methods and techniques. Included are sections on the isolation and characterization of visual pigments, protein chemistry, chemical composition and modification, responses of visual pigments to light, electrical responses in visual photoreceptors, enzymes associated with the visual photoreceptor membranes and their light activation, physical methods specifically useful for retinal photoreceptor studies, and methodologies for studying biogenesis of the photoreceptor cells and their components. In our attempt to be comprehensive, a select number of overview articles have been included to provide background information. Finally, a short section on retinoproteins in invertebrate and vertebrate systems which have not been covered in other volumes in this series has also been included. Our hope is that this collection will prove useful to students and new investigators and will aid progress in this exciting field of research.

We have encountered tremendous enthusiasm in bringing together this volume of "Methods in Enzymology." For this, we would like to acknowledge the Editorial Advisory Board for their wisdom in the selection of the contributors to this volume. In particular, special thanks must be given to Edward A. Dratz and Tom Ebrey for many hours of valuable dialogue and for their help in the conception and development of this project, and to Aaron Lewis and Tôru Yoshizawa for advice and encouragement. I would also like to express my thanks to two talented assistants, Ms. Brenda Soares and Mr. John Hazlett, who helped with the organizational and editorial work involved in assembling this volume.

In Volume 88, methods for the study of halobacteria, bacteriorhodopsin, purple membranes, and halorhodopsin will be covered. There will be sec-

tions on physical and chemical methods common to the study of all retinoproteins, including preparation and use of model chromophores, resonance Raman and other spectroscopic techniques, as well as overviews on molecular structure and theories of color.

LESTER PACKER

# METHODS IN ENZYMOLOGY

EDITED BY

Sidney P. Colowick and Nathan O. Kaplan

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