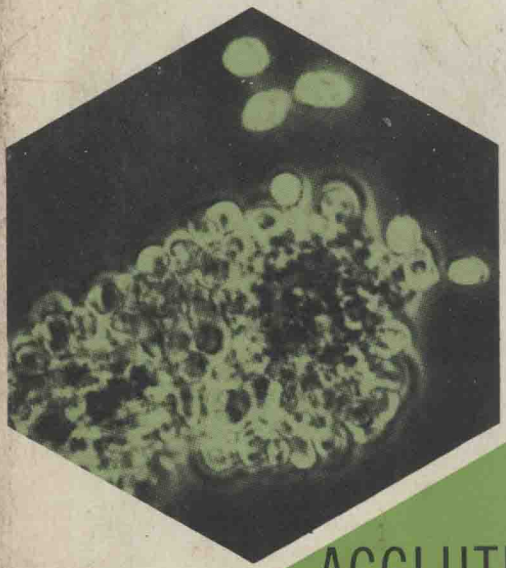
Methods in Immunology and Immunochemistry

Edited by CURTIS A. WILLIAMS
and MERRILL W. CHASE



Volume
IV

AGGLUTINATION, COMPLEMENT, NEUTRALIZATION, AND INHIBITION

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Methods in IMMUNOLOGY and IMMUNOCHEMISTRY

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Preface

In planning an open-ended treatise on methodology in immunochemistry and immunology, we considered the needs not only of the specialist but of those whose primary concern in other areas of biology may suggest application of immunological tools. A rigid format was adopted for the first five volumes, a choice which has caused unexpected problems in publication. Volumes published to date have been very well received.

Volume I is concerned with typical preparative methods employed in handling antigens, antibodies, and laboratory animals. Volume II presents general chemical and physiochemical methods used in immunological research. Volume III deals with antigen-antibody and hapten-antibody reactions *in vitro,* in free solution, and in gels. Volume IV covers direct and indirect agglutination reactions, complement-fixation procedures, hemolytic intermediates, isolation of complement components, complement-related proteins, antisera to complement components, and neutralization reactions (toxins, enzymes, bacteria, bacteriophages). Volume V deals with antigen-antibody reactions *in vivo* : anaphylaxis, Arthus reactions, tolerance, immune suppression with chemical agents, radiation effects, phagocytosis and clearance, antibody synthesis *in vitro,* immunohistological methods, and applied electron microscopy.

Our aim has been to open our colleagues' notebooks to bring together detailed procedures that are hard to retrieve from the original literature and to provide indexes which can be used with confidence. Contributors were asked to include not only the details of procedures they had found most satisfactory in their own laboratory, but also critical remarks on common pitfalls and interpretation of results, references to alternative methods, and mention of applications to other problems. While not all topics are easily suited to this format, we feel that insofar as our general objectives are achieved, these volumes represent high potential energy.

Some important general topics as well as many specific methods are to be covered in future volumes including hypersensitivity, immunity to infection, transplantation, and immunogenetics.

We again express our appreciation to the advisory editors.

CURTIS A. WILLIAMS
MERRILL W. CHASE

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