

The World Biotech Report 1985 Volume 2: USA

Proceedings of Biotech '85 USA, Washington DC, October 1985

Biotech85

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London: New York: Singapore



British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

The World biotech report 1985.

Vol. 2, USA: the proceedings of Biotech '85

USA Washington, D.C. October 1985.

1. Biotechnology

I. Biotech '85 USA Conference: 1985: Washington,

D.C.

660'.6 TP248.2

ISBN 0-86353-125-7

© Online International Inc 1985 Printed in the USA

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Online Publications

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Introduction

The time has come for biotechnology to get to work. Exotic promises of plants that can grow porkchops, pizza flavored popcorn and bacteria that can perform alchemy, turning lead into gold, no longer seem appropriate. We have learned a lot in the past five years and expectations now about the future of the new industry are much more realistic - and still promising amazing new developments. Our experiences now can help us to make true and valuable predictions about the future products we can expect from the new science.

In addition to the increased sophistication that comes from the laboratory we have learned much about the business of biology. Some of the promised products are now about to come into the marketplace. There are new varieties of plants, new proteins added to the pharmacopea, and new ways of designing the future products with the aid of computers. We have new methods for producing the products after they have been proven in the laboratory. We have had experience with how these new products can be marketed and we have encountered regulatory, patenting and licensing issues that were not always anticipated. Imaginative new approaches to funding research and development projects have been found. There is a lot to talk about when we all compare notes taken over the past year.

The breadth of papers presented in this volume, written by those in the trenches, will apprise us of advances, alert us to pitfalls and educate us about that which is to come.

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