Food Biotechnology is designed to be used by food technologists, researchers, managers and all those interested in food science.

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Neurobiology of Glycoconjugates. Edited by R. U. Margolis and R. K. Margolis, Plenum Publishing Corporation, New York, 1989. xviii + 453 pp. Price: US$79.50. ISBN 0 306 43128 9.

Gangliosides, glycoproteins and proteoglycans are glycoconjugates composed of saccharides linked to another component, such as, lipids and proteins. They are found in all tissues and fluids of the body and are particularly abundant in the nervous system. The extracellular space is filled with a matrix of insoluble glycoconjugates through which neutral cell precursors migrate to take up final position in the central nervous system.

Gangliosides play an important role in the excitability of the nervous system and regulation of cell proliferation. Certain glycoproteins and glycoaminoglycans (synthesised as components of proteoglycans) are important constituents of the extracellular matrix and are involved in modulating cell–cell interactions.

Neurobiology of Glycoconjugates describes in its first six chapters the structure, localisation, biosynthesis, metabolism and degradation of brain glycoconjugates. Later chapters deal with synopse and myelin glycoproteins, transport, recognition and interaction functions of glycoconjungates. Hyaluronate, a glycoaminoglycan that promotes aggregation and movement of a wide variety of cell types in the brain is afforded a separate chapter. The final chapter focuses on diseases resulting from errors of complex carbohydrate catabolism of the nervous system.

This book contains a large amount of information on glycoconjugates and it will be very useful for neurobiologists, biochemists, students and researchers working in this field.

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