

BOOK REVIEWS

Metabolic Interconversion of Enzymes 1975

(Fourth International Symposium held in Arad, Israel)

Edited by S. Shaltiel

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This volume contains the written proceedings of the 4th International Symposium on Interconvertible Enzymes held in Arad, Israel in 1975. This is the latest in the series to appear in print and indeed one wonders why it has taken so long to do so since the quality of presentation makes it clear that the authors were required to present their articles in camera-ready form, presumably at the meeting. Since the nature of the constituent articles is such that their value diminishes rapidly with increasing time after the symposium, the delay in publication is unfortunate, especially since some publishers are capable of producing such volumes within 3–4 months of the receipt of the camera-ready copy.

In perusing the constituent articles one realises that this is a club which has met before. Several of the articles appear to be reports on progress achieved since the 1974 symposium which can be of little use to anyone except those who regularly attend these meetings or who are in close touch with the details of the particular topic. In many cases, no serious attempt is made to set the studies in context or to explain their background. In consequence it will be often difficult for those who are not thoroughly familiar with the field to appreciate the significance of the observations reported. Furthermore documentation of the conclusions drawn is often minimal and therefore those workers who are actively working in the field will most likely find the articles less useful than they might be and will presumably hope that a full report of the data will appear in one of the standard journals. It is therefore not easy for me to envisage an audience to which this volume will appeal, since at the non-specialist level most of the topics covered are considered in a more suitable way elsewhere.

However for those who may be interested the volume includes articles on various aspects of glycogen phosphorylase and synthetase and their regulation (Fischer, Cohen, Heilmeyer, Helmreich, Shaltiel, Graves, Fasold, Resen, Larner, Russell-Perez, Gutman, Whelan, Hers); on pyruvate dehydrogenase (Reed, Wieland, Randle); on glutamine synthetase (Stadtman); and on liver phosphofructokinase (Söling). Some less familiar topics which are covered are: control by ADP-ribosylation (Kabat, Kun); the role of proteolysis in control (Holzer, Pontremoli); and proenzyme conversion for the histidine decarboxylase of *Lactobacillus* 30a (Snell). In addition the volume contains some articles having no apparent connection to the title of the symposium, such as, the results of in situ studies using permeabilised cells (Sols, Gancedo), the role of lysosomes in protein turnover (Segal), and accumulation of defective enzymes in ageing (Gershon).

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