

BOOK REVIEW

FREE RADICALS IN BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

Barry Halliwell and John M.C. Gutteridge
ISBN 0-19-855294-7; 0-19-855291-2 (pbk.)
Second Edition, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1989
543 pages, including Appendices and Index
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In their preface to this most welcome second edition, Barry Halliwell and John Gutteridge note that the explosive growth of interest in free radicals and the enormous amount of research work undertaken since 1984 necessitated the writing of this update. Doing this, they 'sometimes felt like painters of the Forth bridge' (that must be a long one), but I'd like to support that at times they must have felt quite satisfied as well. The task has not become easier since these two outstanding experts in this field undertook the compilation of their initial opus. Rather, the flood of new data diversified knowledge even more, with many expectations of corroboration of data in biology and medicine not having been fulfilled (e.g. a simple and unified theory of ischaemia/reperfusion damage)

The carefully selected and didactically well presented material is an excellent introduction to the field for students and researchers in different areas of interest, ranging from chemistry and biology to medicine. The authors maintained the high standards of the first edition. The lower-priced paperback edition is particularly welcome, so that one would hope that the book will soon be seen on many bookshelves around the world.

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