

## Book Review

### APP cookbook

Amyloid precursor protein: A practical approach  
Xia W and Xu H, 2005 CRC Press  
ISBN: 0849322456

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is characterized by the presence of both beta-amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles in the brain. Increasing evidence favors the generation and deposition of amyloid beta-protein (A $\beta$ ) in senile plaques as an early and possibly primary event in AD pathogenesis. A $\beta$  is generated from amyloid precursor protein (APP) via the concerted action of  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -secretases. Hence, there are intense activities to understand the biology of APP processing and A $\beta$  function during disease development. This handy laboratory handbook is written by scientists active in AD research and for scientists working on APP and A $\beta$  biology.

Each chapter either focuses on a technique such as immunocytochemistry (chapter 11) or a research topic like APP processing (chapter 10). Individual chapter begins with a short introduction follow by step-by-step instructions for bench scientists to investigate the subject matter. Unlike other laboratory manual, the authors also present "modifications" alongside "standard" procedures. The goal is to help readers consider similar alterations in their own

experimental procedures as most experiments do not usually lead to conclusive answers.

One useful listing that is missing from other similar monograph is the list of commonly used antibodies against APP and/or A $\beta$ . This is situated at the beginning of the book for easy reference and the information will no doubt benefit new and established AD researchers seeking for antibodies that tailored to their individual needs.

As expected, not all research techniques can be showcased in this handy reference, the book only cover the most up-to-date research activities. Since APP is a transmembrane protein, the techniques presented may also facilitate the investigation of other membrane proteins. In short, this is a useful and handy reference that should and only occupy a tiny space on the bench of any AD laboratory.

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