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Book review

Bioconjugate Techniques

G.T. Hermanson, Academic Press, San Diego, New York, Boston, 1996, XXVI+785 pp., price \$99.00, ISBN 0-12-342335-X (hardback); \$49.95, ISBN 0-12-342336-8 (paperback).

If you are looking for a text that provides an up-to-date coverage of bioconjugate techniques, then look elsewhere. Although this book is copyrighted in 1996, there is not a single reference to 1995 or 1996 literature, and only seven for 1994. If you are looking for in-depth coverage of earlier literature, you need to look elsewhere as well. For example, the classic articles by Buist et al. (e.g. G.J. Buist, C.A. Bunton and J. Lomas, J. Chem. Soc. (B), 1966, 1099–1105) on periodate reactions are not cited, nor is the classic article by Wilcheck and Miron (M.

Wilcheck and T. Miron, Biochemistry, 26 (1987) 2155–2161) on the limitations of N-hydroxy-succinimide esters in affinity chromatography and protein immobilization. So what does this book provide? To its credit, it contains 1100 references, over 650 illustrations and many protocols for the use of particular reagents. To its credit, the book covers topics such as liposome conjugation, colloidal gold labelling, fluorescent labels, modification with synthetic polymers and conjugation with nucleic acids. Nevertheless, like the rest of the book, these topics are just surveyed, and competing literature in the form of other books and reviews are more comprehensive, up-to-date and provide more depth.

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