

BOOK REVIEW

METHODS IN INOSITIDE RESEARCH

Edited by: Robin F Irvine

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Since the early 1980's there has been an explosion in interest in the phosphoinositide cycle. Concomitant with this increased research activity has been the growth in the number of techniques used to study the important intracellular signalling pathways emanating from phosphoinositide metabolism.

This book contains excellent information on the wide range of analytical tools used for studying inositides.

It starts with a brief overview from the Editor of methods of analysis of inositol phosphates, inositol lipids and diacylglycerols not described in the remaining chapters.

A number of chapters are then devoted to the preparation and separation of inositol phosphates using a variety of techniques including HPLC, TLC and ion-pair chromatography.

With the current interest in measuring absolute mass levels of inositol phosphates, four chapters are dedicated to this subject. Particular emphasis is given to methods used to determine inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate (Ins (1,4,5)P₃) in biological extracts.

Subsequent chapters cover the inositol lipids. Techniques for the purification and separation of phosphoinositides, predominantly HPLC, are discussed. Current methods used for quantitating phosphoinositides are also covered.

The final chapter gives an extensive account of the modern methods used for analysing bound and free diacylglycerols.

Throughout the book there is reference to the preparation and uses of radiolabelled inositol phosphates.

In most cases, detailed practical information about analytical methods and preparative techniques are included. This book should therefore appeal to newcomers to the inositide field who may be daunted by the complexity of the area.

In summary, researchers interested in inositides will find this book to be an indispensable practical guide. It is a timely compilation of the techniques in use to study the intricacies of this enormously important intracellular signalling pathway with a comprehensive Subject Index included at the end of the text.

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