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Book Review

Peptide Synthesis and Applications Edited by John Howl. Humana Press, Totowa, NJ. 2005. x + 262 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 1-588-29-317-3. \$99.50.

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Peptide Synthesis and Applications is part of Humana's Methods in Molecular Biology series. The goal of this series is to provide the principles behind the technique, as well as step-by-step protocols and troubleshooting tips to carry out the procedure described. The first chapter does exactly this for solid-phase peptide synthesis. The second chapter, on chimeric peptides, seems to be out of place in a "methods" book, since it is very theoretical. Many of the subsequent chapters return to the methods format, covering topics such as synthesis of branched and cyclic peptides, cell-penetrating peptides, phosphotyrosine mimetics, quenched fluorescent substrates, and incorporation of lipid and carbohydrate functionality. But the chapter on protein synthesis using inteins and the chapter on highthroughput peptide synthesis are reviews with no

methodological detail. The book concludes with a chapter on mass spectroscopic identification of peptides and a chapter on solid-phase synthesis of glutathione analogues. The latter chapter covers essentially the same methodology as chapter 1 and thus seems redundant.

This book suffers the usual problems that arise in a multiauthor volume. Quality and coverage vary greatly from chapter to chapter. The three-page index is barely adequate. The major value of the book is to be found in the chapters that provide detailed descriptions of methods and notes to guide the user.

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