

**Recent Advances in Carbohydrate Engineering.** Edited by H. J. Gilbert (University of New Castle upon Tyne, U.K.), G. J. Davies (University of York, U.K.), B. Henrissat (CNRS, Marseille, France), and B. Svensson (Carlsburg Laboratory, Denmark). The Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge, U.K. 2000. x + 312 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. \$150.00. ISBN 0-85404-774-3.

This book is a compilation of the 36 lectures presented at the 3rd Carbohydrate Bioengineering Conference held at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, England, in April of 1999. The text is divided up into eight different sections, two with only one contribution each (Keynote Address, Post-translational glycosylation of proteins) and one with eight (Structure of the catalytic domains of carbohydrate modifying enzymes). The book also includes a small index (4 pages in length).

Most of the articles in the monograph deal with glycosidases. In this specific area, there are several articles aimed at better understanding the mechanisms (retention of configuration/inversion) of glycosidase activity, as well as the use of glycosidases for the preparation of oligosaccharides. The influence of structural biology on the field of carbohydrate bioengineering manifests itself by the appearance of numerous articles on the structure of the

catalytic and noncatalytic domains of carbohydrate-modifying enzymes (esterases, hydrolases, polysaccharide-binding proteins, and transferases).

As with most symposium-based books, there is some fluctuation in the quality of the articles. However, the results reported provide the reader with the current state of knowledge in this general area. I personally would have preferred to see more contributions in the areas of post-translational glycosylation and polysaccharide biosynthesis. I believe these additions would have made the text more well-rounded and of considerably more utility. Nonetheless, I can strongly recommend the book for academic and industrial libraries interested in the general area of glycobiology. However, I suspect that desk copies of the monograph would be needed only by those who work in the specific fields of structural glycobiology and/or carbohydrate-modifying enzymes.

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