Tetrahedron Vol 39, No. 21, p 3441, 1983
Printed in Great Britain

0040-4020/83 $3.00 + 00
Pergamon Press Ltd

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Recent advances in spectroscopic methods, particularly NMR, have been used with great effect by organic and biophysical chemists to explore metabolic pathways and enzyme-catalyzed reactions in terms of structure, mechanism and stereochemistry. The theme of this symposium is the use of modern techniques for determining regio- and stereo-specific events at the molecular level by judicious application of isotopic labeling and/or recent developments in NMR spectroscopy which can be used to unravel the subtleties of proton exchange, metabolic transformations and rearrangements during biochemical processes.

The sixteen papers contributed to this symposium represent a cross section of the state of the art of this field. Many other laboratories other than those represented are engaged in equally fascinating and quite diverse applications of spectroscopy to biochemical and biological problems. It is my hope that readers of these highly topical and significant papers will not only be stimulated by their content, but may wish to suggest other topics which at a future date may constitute a second instalment of this rapidly growing field.

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