
Book reviews

Loos, M.; Fuchs, P.; Kohn, A.; Schmidt, M.F.G.; Wagner, E.F.; Auer, B.; Schweiger, M.: Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology, Vol. 102. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, Tokyo: Springer 1983. 152 pp., +iii, 40 figs. Hard bound DM 92,-.

This volume contains 4 reviews which are all related to the topic cell membranes. M. Loos describes the biosynthesis of complement protein C1q in macrophages and its receptor function for the Fc region of immunoglobulins and for polyanionic molecules. P. Fuchs and A. Kohn attempt a summary of membrane changes in bacterial and animal cells caused by colicins or after virus infection. M.F.G. Schmidt reviews present knowledge on post-translational modification of membrane proteins by fatty acids (acylation) and compares its biological significance to that of the well-known glycosylation of proteins. The contribution of E.F. Wagner, B. Auer, and M. Schweiger on the molecular biology of bacteriophage T1 is not completely convincing. While some errors are probably only printing errors (e.g. that the molecular weight of T1 DNA of 31×10^6 daltons corresponds to 97,000 base pairs), the reviewer does not agree with certain statements of the authors. For example, it is unexplicable why a DNA methylase postulated for T1, which methylates the sequence GATC (so that 1.7% of the adenine is methylated), should protect T1 DNA against restriction by such enzymes as *EcoB* and *EcoK*, considering that these restriction enzymes have completely different recognition sequences.

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The Jackson Laboratory: 54th Annual Report 1982-1983. Bar Harbor, Maine: The Jackson Laboratory 1984.

With 89 publications in the last 12 month period, the Jackson Laboratory is not only a very productive laboratory, but has also acquired an international reputation for the quality of its scientific activities. Again the Annual Report 1982/1983 reflects its position as a primary resource for information and new ideas on mammalian genetics, especially in mice. In addition to the usual short abstracts on scientific strivings, with emphasis on cell and developmental biology, the report contains formal information on molecular and physiological genetics and immunology. There have been some changes in the organisation: animal resources have been reorganized in order to get a better scientific input, mutant colonies received their own director, more care is taken in protecting animal health. The yearly report again demonstrates the creativity of the staff and its devotion to the purpose of the Jackson Laboratory, the use of genetically controlled experimental animals for applied research.

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