

Abel Lajtha *Editor*

Handbook of Neurochemistry, Vol. 1: Chemical and Cellular Architecture

Handbook of
Neurochemistry

SECOND EDITION

Volume 1

*CHEMICAL AND CELLULAR
ARCHITECTURE*

Handbook of
Neurochemistry

SECOND EDITION

Edited by Abel Lajtha

Center for Neurochemistry, Ward's Island, New York

Volume 1 • CHEMICAL AND CELLULAR ARCHITECTURE

Volume 2 • EXPERIMENTAL NEUROCHEMISTRY

Volume 3 • METABOLISM IN THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Volume 4 • ENZYMES IN THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Volume 5 • METABOLIC TURNOVER IN THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Volume 6 • RECEPTORS IN THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Volume 7 • STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS IN THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Volume 8 • NEUROCHEMICAL SYSTEMS

*Volume 9 • ALTERATIONS OF METABOLITES IN THE NERVOUS
SYSTEM*

Volume 10 • PATHOLOGICAL NEUROCHEMISTRY

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Preface

After the completion of the first edition of this series, this editor thought that a new edition would not be warranted in less than 15, perhaps 20, years, but it seems that we live in a time in which rapid changes are the norm and findings in a field such as neurochemistry develop exponentially. The task of a future editor attempting to get a comprehensive neurochemical handbook for the year 2000 would be even less enviable, but by then information processing may be very different.

The approach, the design, and the areas covered by each volume and each chapter are necessarily arbitrary, and it is likely that other editors or authors would have approached the coverage or the organization in a different manner. It is hoped, however, that readers will find the series helpful for beginning or for continuing work. There may be some overlap among the various chapters, but insisting on single coverage of an area would at times have restricted treatment to only one point of view and might have truncated and hurt the logical flow of some of the chapters.

Chapters in this series do not cover small areas in detail, but each covers a subject that could have been expanded to a book or could have been discussed in a week-long symposium. Still, one definition of a handbook is that it can be lifted and carried by hand. This series may be on the borderline of such a definition, but perhaps it fits "that by being brief it is of more help." Although they facilitate the finding of information and directions, such short presentations always gravely restrict details or background of the information presented. For these restrictions authors are not to be blamed. Clearly, full coverage is not possible, but the emphasis is on good chapters that are of support to those who turn to the book.

Most important, the editor wishes to thank the authors whose hard work is presented here; they are busy, have deadlines and unexpected emergencies, and, no doubt, this series has added just another difficult task to the long list. For their excellent contributions and cooperation we all are indeed grateful. The Handbook reflects not only the excitement of past findings but also, through the rapidly expanding present, the exciting possibilities of the future in our field.

Abel Lajtha

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