

PROTEIN-NUCLEIC ACID INTERACTION

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Institute of Cancer Research
Sutton, Surrey, UK

Watson Fuller
Department of Physics
University of Keele, UK

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PROTEIN-NUCLEIC ACID INTERACTION

Edited by

WOLFRAM SAENGER and UDO HEINEMANN

*Institut für Kristallographie
Freie Universität Berlin,
West Germany*

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The Contributors

Jan Antosiewicz

Max-Planck-Institut für
biophysikalische Chemie
3400 Göttingen
West Germany

Otto G. Berg

Department of Molecular Biology
Uppsala University Biomedical Centre
Box 590
751 24 Uppsala
Sweden

Rolf Boelens

Department of Chemistry
University of Utrecht
Padualaan 8
3584 CH Utrecht
The Netherlands

Joachim Greipel

Medizinische Hochschule Hannover
Zentrum Biochemie
Abt. Biophysikalische Chemie
3000 Hannover
West Germany

Ulrich Hahn

Institut für Kristallographie
Freie Universität Berlin
Takustr. 6
1000 Berlin 33
West Germany

Udo Heinemann

Institut für Kristallographie
Freie Universität Berlin
Takustr. 6
1000 Berlin 33
West Germany

Wolfgang Hillen

Lehrstuhl für Mikrobiologie
Institut für Mikrobiologie und
Biochemie
Staudtstr. 5
8520 Erlangen
West Germany

Peter H. von Hippel

Institute of Molecular Biology
University of Oregon
Eugene
OR 97403
USA

Robert Kaptein

Department of Chemistry
University of Utrecht
Padualaan 8
3584 CH Utrecht
The Netherlands

M. H. J. Koch

European Molecular Biology
Laboratory
c/o DESY
Notkestr. 85
2000 Hamburg 52
West Germany

Rolf M. J. N. Lamerichs
Department of Chemistry
University of Utrecht
Padualaan 8
3584 CH Utrecht
The Netherlands

Günter Maass
Medizinische Hochschule Hannover
Zentrum Biochemie
Abt. Biophysikalische Chemie
3000 Hannover
West Germany

Dietmar Porschke
Max-Planck-Institut für
biophysikalische Chemie
3400 Göttingen
West Germany

Gerald Stubbs
Department of Molecular Biology
Box 1820, Station B
Vanderbilt University
Nashville
TN 37235
USA

Claus Urbanke
Medizinische Hochschule Hannover
Zentrum Biochemie
Abt. Biophysikalische Chemie
3000 Hannover
West Germany

Andreas Wissmann
Lehrstuhl für Mikrobiologie
Institut für Mikrobiologie und
Biochemie
Staudtstr. 5
8520 Erlangen
West Germany

Preface

Protein–nucleic acid interactions have been a focal point of scientific interest over the past three decades. The number of exciting papers that appear annually on this topic is breathtaking. Therefore, it could not be our intention to provide with this volume a comprehensive overview of the field. Instead, we have chosen to bring together contributions describing a wide range of problems in the field of protein–nucleic acid interactions investigated by a variety of techniques.

This volume begins with a chapter on DNA–protein interactions in the regulation of gene expression, which may serve as a convenient entry point into the book. The remaining chapters may be read in any order, since each is devoted to a selected model system. These cover several orders of magnitude in size, going from small proteins like Lac repressor headpiece and RNase T1 and their cognate nucleic acid fragments to chromatin, thus reflecting the amazing diversity of problems even in a fairly well-defined scientific field such as the present. Our main emphasis in putting together this volume has been to include all important techniques currently used in studying protein–nucleic acid interactions. We believe that this aim has been reached within the limits imposed by the size of the book. It goes without saying, and becomes perfectly clear when reading this volume, that only the interplay of the various techniques may be expected to bring about new developments in this field.

Without the very careful work of the contributors, this volume would not have been possible. We would like to thank all authors for their diligence, Stephen Neidle and Watson Fuller, the series editors, for the impetus to assemble this book and Harry Holt and David Grist of The Macmillan Press for their patience and good co-operation.

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W.S.
U.H.