

Protein Structure – Function Relationship

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Edited by

Zafar H. Zaidi

*H. E. J. Research Institute of Chemistry
University of Karachi
Karachi, Pakistan*

and

David L. Smith

*Department of Chemistry
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska*

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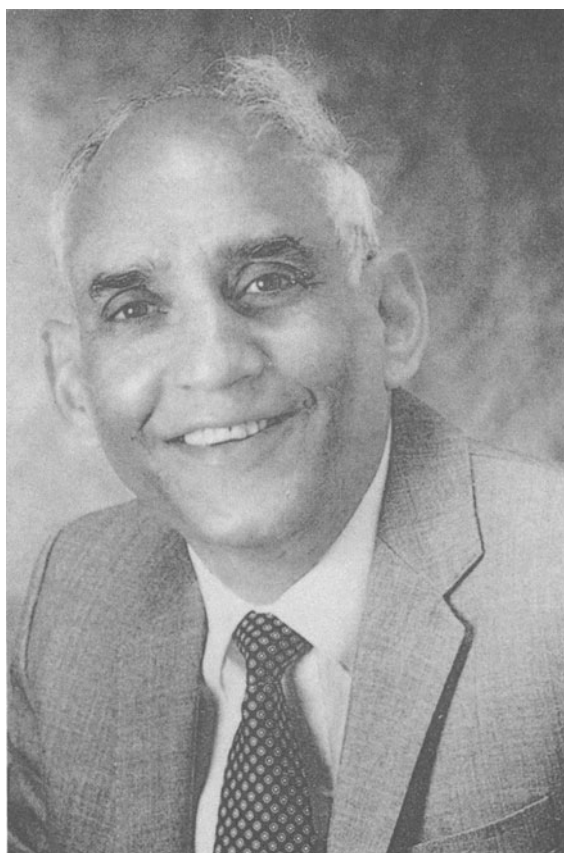
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DEDICATED TO



Professor Muhammad Akhtar, S.I., FRS

PREFACE

Although many pursue understanding of the relationship between protein structure and function for the thrill of pure science, the pay-off in a much broader sense is the ability to manipulate the Earth's chemistry and biology to improve the quality of life for mankind. Immediately goals of this area of research include identification of the life-supporting functions of proteins, and the fundamental forces that facilitate these functions. Upon reaching these goals, we shall have the understanding to direct and the tools required to implement changes that will dramatically improve the quality of life. For example, understanding the chemical mechanism of diseases will facilitate development of new therapeutic drugs. Likewise, understanding of chemical mechanisms of plant growth will be used with biotechnology to improve food production under adverse climatic conditions.

The challenge to understand details of protein structure/function relationships is enormous and requires an international effort for success. To direct the chemistry and biology of our environment in a positive sense will require efforts from bright, imaginative scientists located throughout the world. Although the emergence of FAX, e-mail, and the World Wide Web has revolutionized international communication, there remains a need for scientists located in distant parts of the world to occasionally meet face to face. This need is the basis for this series of symposia, which have brought together leading scientists from Europe, North America, and Southeast Asia to exchange in a very personal sense results of their current research and plans for future research. These proceedings will provide to those who were unable to attend the essence of the meeting.

This symposium was dedicated to Professor Muhammad Akhtar, S.I., FRS, for his services to promote science and technology in Pakistan. The organizers are pleased to acknowledge the following organizations for financial support: Chemical Society of Pakistan, Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists (FAOMB), Hamdard Foundation, Husein Ebrahim Jamal Foundation, National Science Foundation (USA), Pakistan Society of Biochemists, Third World Academy of Science, and the University of Karachi. We also wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to the students and staff of the institute who worked tirelessly and selflessly in organizing the symposium and workshop.

David L. Smith
Zafar Zaidi

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