LC/MS, such as thermospray, electrospray, and ion spray, are introduced. A particularly useful section in this book is the appendix dealing with GC/MS troubleshooting, sources of GC/MS background and contamination, a glossary of GC/MS terms, and further reading.

This book is easy to read and suitable for training, continuing education and updating of all technical staff concerned with analytical chemistry.

John F. Kennedy, Pawadee Methacanon
Birmingham Carbohydrate & Protein Technology Group, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK

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PII: S0144-8617(98)00161-1

DNA: the double helix perspective and prospective at forty years by D.A. Chambers (Ed.). New York: The New York Academy of Sciences, 1995, xiv + 472 pp., £81.00. ISBN 0-89766-905-3

The correct DNA structure, a complementary double helix, was found in 1953 by Francis Crick and James D. Watson, then working in England in the laboratory of Perutz and Kendrew. The establishment of the double helix immediately initiated a profound revolution in the way in which many geneticists analysed their data. The gene was no longer a mysterious entity whose behaviour could be investigated only by breeding experiments. Instead it quickly became a real molecular object.

''DNA: The Double Helix-Perspective and Prospective at Forty Years'' represents the proceedings of a conference, with the same title, which was held in Chicago, Illinois. It comprises nine parts which are related to: the double helix perspective; the pathway to the double helix; the structure and synthesis of DNA; molecular, cellular and integrative biology; DNA and molecular medicine; DNA, oncogenes and cancer; recombinant DNA and biotechnology; and the double helix prospective. It also includes sections on historical articles, the banquet programme, in honour of James D. Watson, Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins and interesting photographs from the past.

This book provides the history of an important section of science. It is of general interest to all those who work with biology and chemistry including workers in natural polymers such as polysaccharides. It gives the reader a clear understanding of the contribution made by several scientists to the development of molecular biology in an area which is historically famous and relevant to all natural-polymer scientists. A book to be read with an approach different from one coming to read a textbook.

J.F. Kennedy, M. Paterson
Birmingham Carbohydrate and Protein Technology Group, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, UK

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PII: S0144-8617(98)00181-1

***Biotechnology international yearbook* by L. Annetts (Ed.). London: Cartermill International Ltd., 1998, pp. xxiii and 286, £185-00. ISBN 1-86067-198-5**

The biotechnology industry is a fast moving environment that has enjoyed dramatic growth over the last decade, with a significant proportion of innovation coming from the hundreds of independent companies in the biotechnology sector. The term 'biotechnology company' has broadened to encompass all innovative, venture-funded, technology-based companies operating in the commercial sphere of life sciences. As a result of the constantly changing/expanding nature of the industry, it is often difficult to source accurate information on the key players within the industry. This volume is, thus, intended to provide individuals with unique access to information relating to established and emerging biotechnology companies throughout the world.

This is facilitated by providing comprehensive corporate and financial data for individual companies, which includes contact details, company partnerships and alliances, ownership, separate research and development pipelines and where available, financial results tables. Records are indexed by company name (including all parent, subsidiary and associated companies mentioned), and by geographical area. The majority of biotechnology companies are in countries where venture capital is most easily available, namely the USA, the UK and Scandinavia, however, growth in other countries such as France, Germany and Italy is increasing.

This volume is an extremely useful source of information for individuals working in all areas of biotechnology, pharmaceutical science, regulatory bodies and academia, especially those seeking collaboration in specific areas of the life sciences. Standard entries are free of charge and any companies wishing to be included in future issues should contact the publisher (cited before).

J.F. Kennedy, C.J. Knill
Birmingham Carbohydrate and Protein Technology Group, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK

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PII: S0144-8617(98)00019-3

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