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**Molekulare Biotechnologie, Methoden und Konzepte M. Wink (ed.), Wiley-VCH Weinheim, 2004, paperback, 834 pages, 69 €, ISBN 3-527-30992-6**

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The dramatic development of molecular biotechnology made it highly desirable to describe its state of art in a text book for German speaking undergraduate students. This is achieved in a remarkable way in this volume edited by M. Wink. It is organized in four parts: I. Fundamentals of biotechnology describes structure and function of the cell synthesis and function of cellular macromolecules, protein sorting and the diversity of organisms; in part II, the standard methods of molecular biotechnology are described like isolation and purification of proteins, peptide and protein analysis with electrospray tandem mass spectroscopy, isolation of DNA and RNA, chromatography and electrophoresis of nucleic acids, the PCR-chain reaction, sequencing of DNA cloning procedures, expression of recombinant proteins, patch clamp

techniques or modern microscopic techniques like confocal microscopy or novel applications of lasers for microdissection or as optical tweezers. Part III focussed on actual topics like genomics, protein-protein and protein-DNA interactions, bioinformatics, drug targeting, molecular diagnostics in medicine, recombinant antibodies and phase display, gene therapy, plant biotechnology and biocatalysis in the chemical industry. In part IV, the innovative impact and the economical perspectives of molecular biotechnology are discussed. Additionally, the book is accomplished with an extended glossary and a carefully arranged register.

In summary, it is highly recommended as an introductory textbook not only for undergraduates but also for newcomers in the field of molecular biotechnology.