

Affinity Chromatography: A Practical Approach

Edited by P.D.G. Dean, W.S. Johnson and F.A. Middleton

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Since affinity chromatography is playing an increasingly important role in the development of both molecular biology and biotechnology, it comes as a surprise to realise that so few books have been published on this subject to date. This volume therefore is very welcome, since it offers a most useful introduction, at both the theoretical and practical level, to the subject of affinity chromatography. The basic development of an affinity chromatography system is described in a series of four chapters on matrix preparation, activation procedures, cross-linking agents for coupling matrices to spacers and the choice of ligands available for immobilisation. A fifth chapter on operational methodologies describes the various factors which have to be taken into account when setting up an affinity column (e.g. the effects of temperature, pH, ionic strength, column dimensions, etc.). The remaining three chapters, which are committed to the description of further applications of affinity chromatography, concentrate on the quantitative analysis of molecular interactions, and cell separation by affinity chromatography. Any criticisms of content are minor, but the use of immunoabsorbents and dye-ligands, while mentioned, should have been given greater

prominence considering the successes achieved with these methods. Each chapter offers detailed practical procedures for the methods described and each protocol seems straightforward enough to follow, although only the use of these procedures at the bench will tell if any important detail is missing. This book will be of interest to the newcomer who wishes to learn about affinity chromatography, but should prove especially useful to those who wish to take matters further and apply the methodology at the bench. In particular, the chapter on 'ligands for immobilisation' describes the immobilisation of a wide range of ligand types, together with details of a number of specific purification procedures, which should prove a useful starting point for the laboratory worker looking for guidance as to how to approach his own specific problem. All methods are well referenced to allow follow-up reading, text and diagrams are clearly laid out and I found the book very readable. At £12 the book is most reasonably priced, and is a welcome addition to a series that is proving a most attractive collection.

John M. Walker