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The Book Corner

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The Book Corner

INDUSTRIAL PROTEOMICS, Applications for Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals, Edited by Daniel Figey, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, NJ, 2005, 303 pages. Price: \$79.95 (Paperback).

Industrial Proteomics, Applications for Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals is as the editor states “is a focused treatment of industrial applications of proteomics. Proteomics in industry is generally focused on application in target discovery and pharmaceutical pipelines, thereby requiring proteomic processes that are robust, well characterized, under quality control (QC) and producing statistically significant results. It also requires the capacity to handle significant amounts of samples. For example, a simple clinical proteomic study might require an analysis by expression proteomics from a minimum of 36 to hundreds of complex samples.”

This book contains 11 chapters, each of which addresses specific aspects of industrial application of proteomics. The first chapter covers the basics of mass spectrometry (MS)-based proteomics. Functional proteomics is covered in Chapters 2 and 3. Chapter 2 discusses the MS-based approaches of mapping protein interactions. Chapter 3 discusses the protein post-translational modifications, particularly, protein phosphorylations. Structural proteomics is covered in Chapters 4 and 5. Chapter 4 covers the use of high-throughput crystallography and in silico methods for structure-based drug design. Chapter 5 describes the use of hydrogen/deuterium exchange mass spectrometry for high-throughput protein structure studies.

The first applications of proteomics were in target discovery. Chapter 6, a discussion of the utilization of proteomics technologies for the identification as well as the validation of protein targets is given.

The latest application of proteomics has been for the discovery of disease or drug-related biomarkers. Chapter 7 provides an overview of biomarker discovery and validation while Chapter 8 details plasma biomarker discovery using proteomics.

Proteomics can also be approached from the small-molecule worked (i.e., drugs), particularly, to find proteins that interact with drugs. Chapter 9 presents chemical genomics/chemical proteomics and discusses the different approaches.

Chapter 10 presents a protein friendly bioinformatic approach and important factors to consider when developing such an approach. Chapter 11 addresses the promising field of protein arrays, by introducing the different approaches and discussing the challenges and success.

The book lacks in detailing the analytical strategies for effective proteome characterization. We found at least one typographical error on page 55, Conrods should read Conrads. Also, some of the figures, for example, page 195, the figure legend are fuzzy as well as in other pages of the book. It seems that some authors were more elegant than others in how they represent their reviews. In spite of the above comments the book will be of help for those interested in the industrial applications of proteomics.

Table of Contents

1. Proteomics: The Basic Overview, D. Figeys, (1).
2. Mapping Protein-Protein Interactions, D. Figeys, (63).
3. Protein Posttranslational Modifications: Phosphorylation Site Analysis Using Mass Spectrometry, R.S. Annan and F. Zappacosta, (85).
4. Use of High-Throughput Crystallography and In Silico Methods for Structure-Based Drug Design, L.W. Tarr, A.J. Jennings, and D.E. McRee, (107).
5. High Throughput Analysis of Protein Structure by Hydrogen/Deuterium Exchange Mass Spectrometry, Y. Hamuro, P.C. Weber, and P.R. Griffin, (131).
6. Proteomics Technologies for Identification and Validation of Protein Targets, J.E. Hall, W. Ou, P. Shiyanov, M.D. Knierman, and J.R. Ludwig, (159).
7. Proteomics Discovery of Biomarkers, R. Massé and B.F. Gibbs, (181).
8. Industrial-Scale Proteomics Analysis of Human Plasma, K. Rose, (217).
9. Chemical Genomics: Targets on Display, S. Doberstein, P.W. Hammond, and R.S. Hubert.
10. Bioinformatics for Proteomics, C. Ahrens, H. Jespersen, and S. Schandorff.
11. Protein Arrays, D.S. Wilson and S. Nock.

Haleem J. Issaq, Ph.D., Editor
The Book Corner

PROTEOMICS TODAY, Protein Assessment and Biomarkers Using Mass Spectrometry, 2D Electrophoresis, and Microarray Technology, by Mahmoud Hamdan and Pier Giorgio Righetti, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, NJ, 2005, 426 pages. Price: \$89.95.

Proteomics Today is a well-written book with a wealth of useful information for all those interested in proteomic analysis. The book is written,

not edited, by two prominent scientists. The book's focus is on mass spectrometry (Part I, Chapter 1), a central component of proteomic research. In this chapter Dr. Hamdan presents a wealth of information dealing with all aspects of mass spectrometry (MS) such as electrospray ionization, ion detection, types of analyzers, tandem MS, FT-ICR-MS and other topics of great interest. Chapter 2 deals with proteomics in cancer research. Here the authors discuss such topics as 2D-gel electrophoresis, surface enhanced laser desorption ionization, protein arrays, laser capture microdissection, analyses of different types of cancer, and proteomic profiling.

In Chapter 3 the authors discuss in detail current strategies for protein quantification, a very important and timely topic. The second part entitles Proteomics Today: Separation Science at Work is made up of three chapters totaling more than 225 pages or 60% of the book. Such a rationale is absolutely justified since separation is an integral part and an important one of proteomic research, especially at the global level. Professor Righetti is well qualified to discuss protein separations. His discussion on separations deals mainly with isoelectric focusing, SDS-PAGE and two-dimensional maps. The discussion of these topics is well presented and referenced. I would have liked to see more discussion of liquid phase based separations such as ion exchange, size exclusion, affinity and reversed-phase HPLC. Overall this is an excellent book, which is highly recommended. The material in the book is extremely useful and the price is right. The book is recommended as a desk reference for all those involved in protein analysis and as a text at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The authors are commended for a job well done.

Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION TO PART I, (1)

Instrumentation and Developments, (7).

Introduction, (7).

Ionization Techniques for Macromolecules, (8).

Examples on Analytical Solutions Based on FAB-MS, (12).

Electrospray Ionization, (16).

Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization, (18).

Ion Detection, (24).

Types of Analyzers, (30).

Hybrid Analyzers, (38).

Tandem Mass Spectrometry, (42).

Current MS Instrumentation in Proteome Analyses, (47).

Current MS-Based Proteomics, (52).

Recent Achievements and Future Challenges, (59).

Concluding Remarks, (61).

References, (63).

- Introduction, (69).
- Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma, (80).
- Proteomic Analysis of Human Breast Carcinoma, (90).
- Proteomic Profiling of Chemoresistant Cancer Cells, (97).
- Signal Pathway Profiling of Prostate Cancer, (101).
- Emerging Role of Functional and Activity-Based Proteomics in Disease Understanding, (103).
- Activity-Based Protein Profiling, (105).
- Probing Protein Functions Using Chromophore-Assisted Laser Inactivation, (106).
- Role of Protein-Tyrosine Kinases, (107).
- Concluding Remarks and Future Prospects, (109).
- References, (117).

Current Strategies for Protein Quantification, (127).

- Introduction, (127).
- Global Internal Standard Technology, (141).
- Differential In-Gel Electrophoresis, (144).
- Quantification of Modified Proteins, (147).
- Comments and Considerations, (153).
- Other Approaches, (159).
- Emerging Role of Microfluidic Devices, (168).
- Concluding Remarks, (174).
- References, (177).

II. PROTEOMICS TODAY: SEPARATION SCIENCES AT WORK, (183)

Conventional Isoelectric Focusing in Gel Matrices and Capillaries and Immobilized pH Gradients, (187).

- Introduction, (187).
- Conventional Isoelectric Focusing in Amphoteric Buffers, (189).
- Immobilized pH Gradients, (225).
- Capillary Isoelectric Focusing, (247).
- Separation of Peptides and Proteins by CZE in Isoelectric Buffers, (255).
- Conclusions, (260).
- References, (261).

Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate-Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis, (273).

- Introduction, (273).
- SDS-Protein Complexes: a Refinement of the Model, (275).
- Theoretical Background of M_r Measurement by SDS-PAGE, (277).
- Methodology, (281).
- Gel Casting and Buffer Systems, (303).
- Blotting Procedures, (322).

Conclusions, (331).

References, (332).

Two-Dimensional Maps, (341).

Introduction, (341).

Some Basic Methodology Pertaining to 2D PAGE, (346).

Prefractionation Tools in Proteome Analysis, (373).

Multidimensional Chromatography Coupled to MS, (390).

Protein Chips and Microarrays, (393).

Nondenaturing Protein Maps, (396).

Spot Matching in 2D Gels via Commercial Software, (397).

Conclusions, (403).

References, (405).

Haleem J. Issaq, Ph.D., Editor
The Book Corner

ADVANCES IN CHROMATOGRAPHY, Volume 43, edited by Phyllis R. Brown, Eli Grushka, and Susan Lunte, Marcel Dekker, New York, NY, 2005, 323 pages. Price: \$198.95.

Volume 43 of the successful series, *Advances in Chromatography*, is an interesting book. The editors succeeded in bringing together first class scientists to review topics of interest to analytical, physical, organic and other chemists.

The first topic, Gradient Elution, Chapter 1, constitutes one third of the book and is a very important chapter. It deals with the theory and application of gradient elution. To obtain satisfactory separation of both weakly and strongly retained compounds, where isocratic elution fails the operating conditions controlling the retention are varied during the chromatographic run. This can be achieved by gradually increasing the temperature, the flow rate or the elution strength of the mobile phase. The author, Professor Jandera, discussed in detail and with superb illustration and a long list of references, the ins and outs of gradient elution.

In Chapter 2, Dr. King discusses supercritical fluids for off-line sample preparation. The author states that there are good reasons to consider the use of supercritical fluids in sample preparation prior to chromatography, particularly because the fluid is easily removed from the sample matrix after extraction or sample cleanup. The most widely used supercritical fluid, supercritical carbon dioxide (SC-CO₂), is relatively inexpensive, nonflammable, and environmentally benign. This review admittedly focuses on the use of off-line super critical fluid extraction (SFE) and its variants in

preparing samples prior to analysis by chromatography. There are some researchers who share the view that analytical SFE is a derivative of activity in the field of analytical supercritical fluid chromatography (SFC).

Chapter 3 is a theoretical discussion that deals with the relationship between chromatography, single molecule dynamics and equilibrium. Chapter 4 is a review of solid-phase microextraction (SPME), a useful sample preparation method. This technique integrates sampling, extraction, preconcentration, and sample introduction in a simple single-step procedure. Additionally, it facilitates automation and direct coupling to chromatographic analysis: gas chromatography (GC) and high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). When performed in the most known fiber format, SPME is based on the sorption of the analyte on an extraction phase coated on a small fused silica fiber. It is an informative review that is well written.

The last chapter deals with polyelectrolytes as stationary phases for liquid chromatography. In this chapter the authors introduce and identify what polyelectrolytes as stationary phases are. In silica-based columns (normal phase as well as reversed phase), it is possible to work only within a relatively narrow pH range, usually between 2 and 7.5. One of the approaches to overcome this limited pH range is to use new types of polymer-based phases including polymer-clad silica gel particles, which are the subject of this review. These new polymeric phases have an added advantage of offering new and unique selectivities that cannot be attained using conventional silica gel. Most of the polymeric stationary phases in use are neutral. However, the range of polymeric stationary phases can be expanded to include polyelectrolytes. For example, positively charged polymers can be adsorbed on silica particles by electrostatic interactions over a wide range of pH due to the fact that the surface of the silica has partially negative charge. On these positively charged surfaces, it is easy to adsorb negatively charged polyelectrolytes to form a multilayer.

There are two main approaches to making silica-based polyelectrolyte stationary phases. The first approach is to coat the silica gel particles in a batch mode outside the column. Once coated, the column is then packed using conventional high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) packing techniques.

The second approach to prepare silica-based polyelectrolyte stationary phase is to coat the column dynamically in situ. In this approach, the coating solution is passed through the column that has been packed previously with the silica support. Conventional chromatographic equipment is used for transporting the coating solution through the column. Of the two approaches, the batchwise method is, by far, the most prevalent.

The dynamic coating technique is an in situ method used to prepare stationary phases for HPLC, capillary electrophoresis, and capillary electrochromatography. Volume 43, although expensive, is a good book to have.

Table of Contents

I. Gradient Elution in Liquid Column Chromatography—Prediction of Retention and Optimization of Separation, P. Jandera, (1).

1. Introduction
2. Theory of Retention in Analytical Gradient-Elution Chromatography
3. Reversed-Phase Chromatography with Binary Gradients
4. Normal-Phase Chromatography with Binary Gradients
5. Ion-Exchange Gradient Elution Chromatography
6. Effects of the Instrumentation and of the Nonideal Retention Behavior on the Retention of Gradient Elution
7. Gradient Elution Method Development
8. Chromatography with Ternary Gradients
9. Peculiarities of Gradient Elution Separation of High-Molecular Compounds
10. Conclusions

II. Supercritical Fluids for Off-Line Sample Preparation in Food Analysis Prior to Chromatography, J.W. King, (109).

1. Supercritical Fluids for Sample Preparation
2. Supercritical Fluid Extraction (SFE)
3. Integration of Cleanup Step with SFE
4. Coupling Reaction Chemistry (Derivatization) with SFE
5. Applications of Critical Fluids for Sample Preparation
6. Status of the Technique—Conclusions and References

III. Correspondence Between Chromatography, Single-Molecule Dynamics, and Equilibrium: A Stochastic Approach, F. Dondi, A. Cavazzini, and M. Martin, (179).

1. Summary
2. Introduction
3. The Stochastic Approach of Chromatography
4. Peak Shape Features and Experimental Errors in the Determination of the Retention Factor
5. Equilibrium Conditions in Chromatography
6. Discussion
7. Conclusion

IV. Solid-Phase Microextraction: A New Tool in Contemporary Bioanalysis, G. Theodoridis and D.J. de Jong, (231).

1. Introduction
2. Extraction Mode and Coupling

3. Sorption Principles and Parameters
4. Coatings
5. Derivatization
6. Bioanalytical Applications
7. Possibilities and Limitations of SPME
8. References

V. Polyelectrolytes as Stationary Phases in Liquid Chromatography, L. Yishai-Aviram and E. Grushka, (273).

1. Introduction
2. The Principle of Dynamic Coating
3. Column Characterization
4. Positively Charged Polyelectrolytes as Stationary Phases
5. Negatively Charged Polyelectrolytes as Stationary Phases
6. Complex Polyelectrolyte Layering
7. References

Haleem J. Issaq, Ph.D., Editor
The Book Corner