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## Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

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**A review of: “*Biophosphates and their Analogues; Synthesis, Structure, Metabolism and Activity*. Proceedings of the 2nd International Symposium on Phosphorus Chemistry Directed Towards Biology, Lodz, Poland, 8-12 Sept. 1986. Edited by K. S. Bruzik and W. J. Stec. Centre of Molecular and Macromolecular Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Lodz, Poland. (*Bioactive Molecules*, 3) 1987 xiv 598 pages. Price: US\$155.50/Dfl 350.00. ISBN 0-444-42766-X. Elsevier Science Publishers, P. O. Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Distributor in the U.S.A. and Canada: Elsevier Science Publishing Co., Inc. P.O. Box 1663, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.”**

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## BOOK REVIEW

*Biophosphates and their Analogues; Synthesis, Structure, Metabolism and Activity*. Proceedings of the 2nd International Symposium on Phosphorus Chemistry Directed Towards Biology, Lodz, Poland, 8–12 Sept. 1986. Edited by K. S. Bruzik and W. J. Stec. Centre of Molecular and Macromolecular Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Lodz, Poland.

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As the Foreword indicates growth in research in the field of phosphorus chemistry directed towards biology has been remarkable, particularly in the area of synthesis of nucleic acids. The Proceedings cover 64 presentations distributed in five major sections: Synthesis of Biophosphates and their Analogues (30 papers); Mechanisms of Enzymes Involved in Phosphate Transformation (9 papers); Mechanisms of Nucleic Acid Metabolism (12 papers); Biologically Active Phosphates (5 papers); Physicochemical and Biophysical Studies of Biophosphates (8 papers).

Overall the goal of the conference reflected in this volume has been achieved, i.e. of discussing the latest developments in biologically oriented phosphorus chemistry. Hence, it is recommended reading for new as well as active members of this research community. One learns of the extensive advances since the first International Symposium on this topic held in Burzenin, Poland in September 1979, in sub-areas such as oligonucleotide synthesis, model studies of DNA and RNA interactions, stereochemistry of biophosphates, and application of recent labelling methods and two-dimensional NMR techniques.

Very helpful are the references to pertinent literature included with each paper. However, it is noted that not all the papers presented at the conference are included in this volume nor is any indication made about which are major oral presentations or which are poster presentations. It is also unfortunate that the reader will not benefit from the round-table session following the lectures on, "What is next in Phosphorus Chemistry Directed Towards Biology?". Finally, although the meeting is designated as international, participation from many countries is scanty or non-existent. Contributions from the United States concentrate in the last section on physicochemical and biophysical studies of biophosphates.

Reviewed by Robert R. Holmes, Editor-in-Chief