

Preface

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MACROMOLECULAR STRUCTURES AND FUNCTION¹

This Conference is the third in a series, spaced at intervals of about 3 years, that have brought together investigators in the field of macromolecular chemistry primarily from the United States and Japan, but with representation from other Pacific basin countries and Europe. The first two were held in Hawaii. The first, *Frontiers in Protein Chemistry*, was held in 1979; the second, *Frontiers in Biochemical and Biophysical Studies of Proteins and Membranes*, was held in 1982. The Proceedings of both volumes were published by Elsevier.

The present meeting, in December 1985, was held at the National Defense Medical College in Tokorozawa, Japan. It will be clear to the casual reader of the enormous advances that have been made in sequencing and synthesis methods, in biophysical techniques for studying the relationships between macromolecular structure and function, and, perhaps most importantly, in the recently developed symbiosis between molecular genetics and protein chemistry. Gene cloning and DNA sequencing methods frequently lead to protein chemical studies. Conversely, many problems of protein chemistry are best studied when molecular genetic methods are parts of the armamentarium of the research program. We believe the papers in this Conference illustrate well these interdependences.

The organizers and editors of this volume have a particular indebtedness to Dr. Mamiya, Dr. Okamoto, Dr. Yaji, and Dr. Yajima and their colleagues in Japan, who did most of the work in obtaining support for, and organizing, this Conference.

¹ Beginning with the present issue, the proceedings of this conference will be published in three consecutive issues of the *Journal of Protein Chemistry*.