

## Mass Spectrometry of Peptides

Edited by Dominic M. Desiderio  
CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida  
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This monograph contains 19 chapters authored by many of the leaders in the field. These contributions together provide one of the most thorough descriptions to date of the mass spectrometry of peptides. The book is clearly centered around peptides, *not* peptides and proteins. This distinction means there are relatively few pages given to the analysis of intact proteins, or of peptide mixtures derived from proteins. In most cases, the peptides are derived from nonproteinaceous sources or have been previously purified from a mixture. The categorization of the chapters into three sections (I—Ionization Methods, II—Instrumental Developments, and III—Analysis of Peptides) is somewhat confusing. Section I is mostly plasma desorption and its related applications, but no chapters cover fast-atom bombardment (FAB). In contrast, the chapters in Section III are exclusively applications of FAB. One or two of the chapters in Sections I and III could be exchanged for a more coherent presentation, especially for someone with little background in mass spectrometry.

About half of the chapters stand out as excellent presentations. "Fundamental Aspects of Protein Mass Spectrometry Using 252-Californium Plasma Desorption," by Macfarlane and co-workers, provides a clear overview of this technique. "Analysis of Peptides and Proteins by Plasma Desorption Mass Spectrometry," by Roepstorff, gives many practical suggestions and applications. "Four-Sector Tandem Mass Spectrometry of Peptides," by Ashcroft and Derrick, gives a good overview that is not found elsewhere. "Peptide Sequence Analysis by Triple Quadrupole and Quadrupole Fourier Transform Mass Spectrometry," by Hunt and colleagues, provides an excellent description of the data interpretation process and demonstrates the use of simple chemical reactions to enhance the information content of spectra. "Sample Preparation and Matrix Selection for Analysis of Peptides by FAB and Liquid SIMS," by Busch, is an extensive review of sample and matrix characteristics for FAB. "On-Line Methods for Peptide Analysis by Continuous-Flow FABMS," by Caprioli and co-workers, presents a well-illustrated overview of continuous-flow FAB. "The Mass Spectral Analysis of Hemoglobin Variants," by Lee and Rahbar, is a good illustration of the use of mass spectrometry to study amino acid

substitutions in proteins. "Detection and Location of Disulfide Bonds in Proteins by Mass Spectrometry," by Smith and Sun, is excellent review of this topic. "Tandem Mass Spectrometry for Determining the Amino Acid Sequence of Cyclic Peptides and for Assessing Interactions of Peptides and Metal Ions," by Cerny and Gross, provides detailed approaches to data interpretation of the often complex spectra that arise from cyclic peptides. "Mass Spectrometry of Biologically Important Neuropeptides," by Desiderio, gives an excellent overview of this topic, including a significant discussion of sample preparation and important non-mass spectrometric adjunct techniques.

Of the other nine chapters, many are simply compilations of previously published examples. These serve to illustrate the utility of the technique further but give neither practical details nor any new understanding. The work is largely free from errors, either typographical or in content. Chapter 3 has several hand-labeled figures that reduce the overall appearance.

The book suffers most from the lack of discussion of electrospray ionization and matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization, which were just beginning to see widespread use when the book was written in 1989. These two techniques have transformed the mass spectrometry of peptides and proteins to such an extent that without them the book loses much of its practical value, especially to the growing legions of biochemists who wish to acquire some understanding of mass spectrometry. Nonetheless, many of the approaches described are valuable and are independent of the ionization technique, and the book serves as an excellent, although, unfortunately, dated, reference.

## Techniques in Protein Chemistry

Edited by Tony E. Hugli  
612 pp., ISBN #0-12-682001-5 [paperback, \$54.95],  
#0-12-682000-7 [hardcover, \$99.00], 1989

## Techniques in Protein Chemistry II

Edited by Joseph J. Villafranca  
579 pp., ISBN #0-12-721957-9 [paperback, \$49.95],  
#0-23-732958 [hardcover, \$99.95], 1991

## Techniques in Protein Chemistry III

Edited by Ruth Hogue Angeletti  
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[paperback, \$45.00], #0-12058755-8  
[hardcover, \$90.00], 1992

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