

**Immunological Methods (Vol. IV)**; Edited by I. Lefkovits and B. Pernis; Academic Press; San Diego, 1990; xxvii + 338 pages; \$69.00 (Hard back)

The contents of Volume III in this series emphasised the growing importance of techniques in molecular biology in a variety of aspects of immunological research and this theme is continued to a large extent in the first eight chapters of the twenty-one chapters of volume IV. Chapters on the general use of the Polymerase Chain Reaction and a method to determine DNA binding sites for putative DNA-binding proteins are particularly well presented and up-to-date. Useful summaries were also provided of: the genetic engineering of cell-surface molecules in order to express soluble receptors; the expression of recombinant proteins in *E. coli*; the analysis of *cis*-end *trans*-acting factors regulating gene transcription.

Chapters 9-21 cover a wide variety of techniques in cellular immunology, ranging from the biological assay of interleukins to the generation and analysis of transgenic mice in the study of T cell development. The chapters on the biological assay of interleukins and the generation of human monoclonal antibodies provide useful summaries of these important areas and the

description of an assay for quantitation of cell-cell adhesion, using fluorescent dyes, is likely to be of general interest.

Most of the chapters are well presented, make good use of figures and tables, and are up-to-date, with many references from 1989, and some from 1990. Many of the chapters contain detailed procedures for methods, lists of reagents, buffer compositions, etc. However I feel that this is not really a 'recipe' book to be used at the bench since the strength of most chapters lies in provision of a review of the issue in question for the reader and in guiding him towards a particular procedure which will be consulted in a more methods-orientated book (such as 'Molecular Cloning' by Sambrook, Fritsch and Maniatis) or by going back to the original publication on the topic.

This multi-author book appears a useful acquisition for libraries wishing to cover a wide range of immunological methods in depth rather than to appeal to individuals or small research groups.

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