**Book Reviews**


Volume 6 in this series continues the tradition of previous volumes with 14 excellent reviews ranging in topic from the breathing of DNA to the structure of the ribosome. These are not reviews for the lay reader but, rather, a collection of essays for the person who is either already in the field or who wishes to delve deeply into a specific topic. Each provides a well-referenced and up-to-date comment on a particular area of research and each ends with a most useful summarising paragraph indicating the areas covered by the review.

The opening three articles deal with the structure of DNA and reflect our changed conception of base pair opening of the DNA double helix and the importance of superhelical tension for both replication and transcription. There follow four chapters on DNA binding proteins contrasting an abundant DNA-binding protein of prokaryotes (H-NS) which has only an ill-defined function in transcription with a motif (the HMG-box) present in a variety of proteins of widely differing significance. A comparison of the primary sequence of 30 leucine zipper proteins has led to predictions about dimerisation and the conclusion is reached that an α-helix forms in the basic region but only on binding DNA. The helix-loop-helix proteins also have a dimerisation and a DNA binding domain.

Information about books for review in FEBS Letters, but not the books themselves unless requested by the Book Reviews Editor, should be sent to: Professor H.R.V. Arnstein, FEBS Letters Book Reviews Editor, 15 Hurst Avenue, Highgate, London N6 5TX, UK.