

**Monoclonal Antibody and Immunosensor Technology (Laboratory Techniques in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, vol. 23);**  
by A.M. Campbell, Amsterdam, Elsevier, 1991; xxvi + 427 pages. \$ 59.00. Dfl. 115.00.

This is a broad but concise description of all you need to know about the production and application of rodent and human monoclonal antibodies, including characterization. The title is a bit of a misnomer in that less than 7% of the book is about immunosensor technology.

This volume gives a brief history of Mabs, and explains that the basic method of Mab production remains unchanged, as do the cloning and fusion methods from those of 10 years ago. The biggest changes are in the methodology of selection and use. This volume spends some time describing these changes; Assay techniques, Immunization, Cell culture requirements, fusion procedures involving PEG and strategies for producing the cell lines which make the Mabs, either by transformation of B lymphocytes with a virus or oncogene, or growth in lymphokine-enriched medium which allow B lymphocytes to expand clonally from 1-100 fully differentiated Mab producing cells; the use of recombinant DNA methods to improve Mab technology to alter quantity or quality of Mabs or to circumvent the fusion process entirely by generating random genetic libraries from which a wider range of Mabs may be produced. A short section of purification protocols is included.

Characterization is a complex procedure and the need for proof of monoclonality makes this characterization important. The chapter on this goes into antibody class determination, epitope analysis and determination of affinity.

The short section of immunosensor technology scans the various classification of immunosensors now being investigated, and gives some general rules for adopting a Mab or panel of Mabs into a biosensor. The author points out that there is little communication between the Mab technologists and electrochemical or opto-electronic engineers, who assume that antibodies are very specific and have not been disabused of this fact.

The book makes essential reading for the would-be immunosensor technologist for a good grounding in Mabs, and also for those considering entry into the field of Mab technology.

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**Electron microscopic immunocytochemistry;** edited by Julia M. Polak and John V. Priestley, Oxford University Press; Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1992; xiv + 267 pages. £ 30.00 (spiral bound). ISBN 0-19-963248-0.

Texts covering electron microscopical techniques tend either to dwell at length on the intricacies of the methods or assume that the reader has some familiarity with the methods and thus concentrate on the areas of application. This book attempts to do both but inevitably falls short, being compromised by the book's size. In spite of the title implying that this may be a major treatise on the subject, the editors' intention has clearly been to provide a guidebook primarily for pathologists: five chapters cover general methodologies and five others deal with applications in this field.

The first methods chapter covers the background to electron microscopic immunocytochemistry (EMIC), reviews the past approaches, and proceeds to set the scene for the other contributions. Cameron and Toner draw attention to the inherent problems encountered with pathology specimens, and contribute a masterly chapter, extensively referenced (14 pages), on the immunolocalization of individual cellular components and tissue-specific antigens. Chapters on pre- and post-embedding EMIC, the latter illustrating the scope now provided by resin technology are accompanied by a consideration of the cryosectioning approach. There is perhaps overlap in their introductions but as such these chapters are then able to be read alone. The success of each approach reflects respective authors' experiences with their

particular tissue types/antigens and the methods they used to obtain best results, a recurrent theme in EMIC. The promise is that one approach selected sensibly from the array of options presented will hopefully suit the reader's needs.

In the remainder of the book, applications of EMIC to renal disease, endocrine tumours, neuropathology, and dermatology, are given as examples, plus those methods suited to microbiological specimens. Separate appendices on detailed technique requirements with others on suppliers of consumables and specialized equipment, complete this hard-back volume, which is usefully spiral-bound to open flat as a bench book should. Minor criticisms include the size of some illustrations, which are too small, making the visibility of gold particles difficult, and a reference to a company (Emscope Ltd.) in one of the appendices which no longer exists.

As an inexpensive bench book for those wishing to apply EMIC to histopathology a copy should find its way into most good Medical Faculty Libraries, and will doubtless be a personal purchase for many pathologists.

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Campbell AM (1991) Monoclonal antibody and immunosensor technology, vol 23. In: Van der Vliet PC (ed) Laboratory techniques in biochemistry and molecular biology. Elsevier, AmsterdamGoogle Scholar. Harlow E, Lane D (1988) Antibodies. A laboratory manual. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New YorkGoogle Scholar. Lindl T, Bauer J (1994) Zell-und Gewebekultur. Eine EinfÃ¼hrung in die Grundlagen sowie ausgewÃ¤hlte Methoden und Anwendungen. Laboratory Techniques in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Vol. 15, Elsevier, Amsterdam, pp. 29, (1985).Google Scholar. VanderKop, P. A. and MacNeil, J. D., Separation and detection of monensin, lasalocid and salinomycin by thin-layer chromatography/bioautography. J. Chromatogr. A, 508, 386â€“390 (1990).CrossRefGoogle Scholar. Watanabe, H., Satake, A., Masumoto, M., Kido, Y., Tsuji, A., Ito, K., and Maeda, M., Monoclonal-based enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay and immunochromatographic rapid assay for monensin. Analyst, 123, 2573â€“2578 (1998).PubMedCrossRefGoogle Scholar. Copyright information.