

Preface

In vitro utilization of liposomes is now recognized as a powerful tool in many bioscience investigations and their associated clinical studies, e.g., liposomes in drug targeting; liposomes in gene transport across plasma and nuclear membranes; liposomes in enzyme therapy in patients with genetic disorders. However, before these areas can be effectively explored, many basic areas in liposome research require elucidation, including: (a) attachment of liposomes to cell surfaces; (b) permeation of liposomes through the plasma membranes; and (c) stability of liposomes in cell or nuclear matrices. None of these areas have been exhaustively explored and liposome researchers have ample opportunities to contribute to our knowledge.

The aim of *Liposome Methods and Protocols* is to bring together a wide range of detailed laboratory protocols covering different aspects of liposome biology in order to assist researchers in those rapidly advancing medical fields mentioned earlier. With this goal in mind, in each protocol chapter we have detailed the materials to be used, followed by a step-by-step protocol. The Notes section of each protocol is also certain to prove particularly useful, since the authors include troubleshooting tips straight from their benchtops, valuable information that is seldom given in restricted methods sections of standard research journals. For this reason we feel that the book will prove especially useful for all researchers in the liposome field.

In editing *Liposome Methods and Protocols*, we attempted to cover as many biochemical areas as the technique addresses, as the Contents demonstrates. We should mention here only that the reader will find a good cross-section of the commonly used liposome techniques, as well as certain more sophisticated techniques and protocols. Many readers will also find the current reference lists at the end of each chapter as a valuable source of background information.

We would like to thank all the authors for their fine contributions. The wide range of protocols they have so superbly realized will ensure that this is an indispensable book for researchers across many fields, including glycoproteins, glycolipids, glycosyltransferases, drug transport, viral transport, antibody delivery, synthetic peptide delivery to cells, and protease delivery.

Putting our personal convictions aside, however, we must leave final judgment of the book to the proper scientific communities, and we do so with confidence. We gratefully acknowledge the tireless help of Mrs. Dorisanne Nielsen during our editing of this book. We extend our thanks and appreciation to Dr. Asoke Shukla for his initial inspiration to edit this book.

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