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## Preface

Amazingly for a procedure so fundamental to present-day biomedical research as well as medical diagnostics, development of the western blot occurred within the memory of many individuals who continue to work in these fields. That is, conversely, there are many investigators and clinicians presently working who recall the days prior to the western blot. The personal stories of how and why the technique was developed are given in this volume by the people intimately involved with this development. These stories date from only roughly 30 years ago. Since then, a very large number of variations on the theme of gel separation of biologic products by different parameters such as size or charge, followed by transfer to solid support and identification, have been developed. The present compilation brings together a large number of these techniques, some of which are adaptations of the original technique in order to solve a problem, whereas others are far flung and vastly different from how the original techniques were envisioned. The goal of our work is to not only compile the vast array of techniques based on western blot, but also give practical methods. We suspect that almost everyone involved in the enterprise has tried to bring a new technique to their laboratory by reproducing methods found in traditional publications. Doing this is commonly fraught with difficulty and may take weeks to accomplish, or may be abandoned as impossible. We hope that investigators will be able to open this volume and rapidly begin to use a technique new to them and their laboratories because the chapters give detailed practical methods, tips, and alternatives. If you are able to open a chapter, and conveniently and quickly perform a new procedure in your laboratory, then we will have accomplished our goals in editing this work.

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**Methods and Protocols**

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