



Introduction to Protein Architecture: The Structural Biology of Proteins

By Arthur M. Lesk

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Written in a clear and engaging style, and profusely illustrated with superb computer graphics, *Introduction to Protein Architecture* is a textbook for second and third year undergraduate students and beginning post-graduate students, and will be of interest to all biological and medical scientists whose work touches on proteins.

The structures and functions of proteins unlock the secrets inherent in genomes, including the human genome. The emphasis of this book is on protein architecture, on proteins as three-dimensional patterns. A new field, bioinformatics, has grown up around gene and protein sequences and structures. It has captured the interest of many scientists for its intellectual challenges, its potential for useful applications, and promising scope for careers. This book introduces the use of the World Wide Web in bioinformatics.

Written by one of the leaders in this field, *Introduction to Protein Architecture* explains the general characteristics of proteins that underlie the very great variety of folding patterns observed in nature. For specialists in structural biology, it contains the core of what they need to know. For students and workers in related disciplines, undergraduates or beginning graduate students in biology, chemistry, medicine, bioinformatics, and related fields it contains what they will be able to apply to their own work. Topics treated include: *Pattern and form in protein structure; The building blocks; The relationship between amino acid sequence and protein structure; Secondary, supersecondary and tertiary structure; Classifications and hierarchies of protein folding patterns; Protein evolution; How proteins change conformation (and why)*.

To suit the needs of courses, each chapter includes recommended reading, lists of useful web sites, traditional exercises, and a new type of exercise called a weblem, for WEB-based probLEM.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A text for second- and third-year undergraduate students and beginning post-graduate students in biological and medical science, incorporating an introduction to the use of the Web in bioinformatics. Explains the general characteristics that underlie all structures, functions, and interactions of proteins observed in nature. Emphasis is on protein architecture and the three-dimensional patterns of protein structures, with a wealth of computer-generated color images. Includes exercises, problems, and 'weblems,' designed to give students practice with the tools required for research in the field. The author is affiliated with the University of Cambridge."--*SciTech Book News*

"In *An Introduction to Protein Architecture*, Arthur Lesk presents an insightful survey of this most fundamental topic. It is particularly timely for a new text on this subject as the current availability of extensive web-based information resources for protein sequences and structures modifies the traditional role for the textbook. Arthur Lesk is one of the pioneers of the analysis of protein structure and its evolution. ... So, needless to say, this book is brilliantly illustrated with an extensive array of large, clear stereo diagrams for the structures or motifs that are described in the text. Moreover, we believe that the use of stereo figures is essential for truly visualizing the complex 3D geometry of proteins. ... [T]his text, written by a leading expert in the field, is to be highly recommended for anyone wishing to learn about protein architecture in the context of the current structure of bioinformatics information resources."--*Trends in Biochemical Sciences*

About the Author

Arthur M. Lesk, Senior Research Associate, Haematology Department, Cambridge Institute for Medical Research, University of Cambridge.

Phone 01223 336829

email aml2@mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk

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