



Sphingolipid Biochemistry

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Book Condition: New. Publisher/Verlag: Springer, Berlin | Interest in and emphasis upon different aspects of the sphingolipids have, in general, followed the biochemical developments of the day. The early investigators were preoccupied principally with the isolation of "pure" compounds and structural elucidation. This historical perspective is found in the discussion presented in Chapter 1 (Section 1.1.2 and Table III). Still, the isolation and structural characterization of glycolipids are the basic foundation of all our knowledge of enzymology, immunology, and cell biology. Recent information obtained on structure has greatly affected the interpretation of various phenomena related to glycolipids. New structures suggest a new role of glycolipids as antigens and receptors. Ten years ago, only four neutral glycolipids and two gangliosides were known in human erythrocytes. We now know structures of at least twenty additional neutral glycolipids and ten additional gangliosides in human erythrocytes that are known to be important blood group, heterophil, and autoantigens. Erythrocytes are only one example of a cell type whose glycolipid profile has been extensively studied. Our defective knowledge in immunology and cell biology may be due to incomplete understanding of structural chemistry. Modern methodology based on methylation analysis,...



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