

This BAM issue contains a Hot Section on BAM Methods made up by the collection of eight articles devoted to the practical aspects concerning: i) experimental models for studying muscular cells behaviour and ii) analysis and separation of proteins and nucleic acids present in muscle cells. The arguments are, only in part, some of those dealt during the several practical courses entitled: "Electrophoresis and HPLC of Biopolymers and their Fragments" held in Padova (Italy) in the last ten years under the auspices of the Italian Society for Cell Biology and Differentiation. This fact explains in part why many authors are from the University of Padova or Italians. Nevertheless the present selection is to be considered an extension of the topics discussed in the above mentioned courses since additional approaches to the study of muscle biology and physiopathology, such as skinned fibers (Mounier et al.), cell cultures (Cantini and Carraro) and experimental models of neuromuscular activity modification (Meghighian et al.) have been included here. Furthermore I would like to point out the contribution on electrophoresis of myosin under non dissociating conditions by Anne d'Albis, a pioneer in this field. The readers will note that some papers, beside presenting protocols of well established methods, indeed contain interesting variants and/or original results. Therefore this BAM issue will prove very useful to those who are new to a particular technique, but it could also prove equally useful to researchers who wish to update their techniques in relation to new development.

In conclusion this issue, in combination with the Italian Manual: *Elettroforesi e Cromatografia di Biopolimeri e loro Frammenti* (UNIPRESS Padova, Italy), is a valuable benchbook, in which each step of every technique is clearly and accurately explained.

I hope that the actual selection may be the first of a series published in BAM and therefore I invite all the interested authors to submit their contributions.

I wish to end this short comment on BAM methods session by pointing out that, a Summer Course on Pathophysiology of Skeletal Muscle (ECBF 94) will be held in Padova, June 6-10, 1994, under the auspices and funds of European Community COMETT-TUCEP and TEMPUS JEP TMPBT, programs for financial support in the field of Research and Technical Development. The topics dealt are very interesting for those working in muscle field and will mainly cover the aspects of the analysis and separation of biochemical markers of muscle trophism, plasticity and damage/repair. For full details see the interested people is kindly requested to refer to the relative detailed program enclosed at the end of this BAM issues.

These post-doc teaching activities are part of a general effort which could evolve in a European Network of Applied Myology. Here in Padova we are confident that the knowledge accumulated during the past twenty years in basic myology is offering to the medical and non-medical community several options to give answers to very common social demands. A few examples are enough to convince sceptics and offer the draft of an organizing model: Gene therapy via myoblasts; Skeletal muscle as an energy source for implantable devices; Functional muscle transplants and rehabilitation technology; Animal breeding and doping controls.

Even a few considerations on the fine-tuning of the accumulated knowledge needed to implement the potentials of each of these approaches demand the conclusion that common research is needed and that cross-fertilization is essential and may obviously be expected from international (European, *in primis*) cooperation.

Several Institutions are open to participate to the proposal, but your interest and cooperation is essential, and so let me hope that you would take seriously the potentials we may exploit in a common effort.

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