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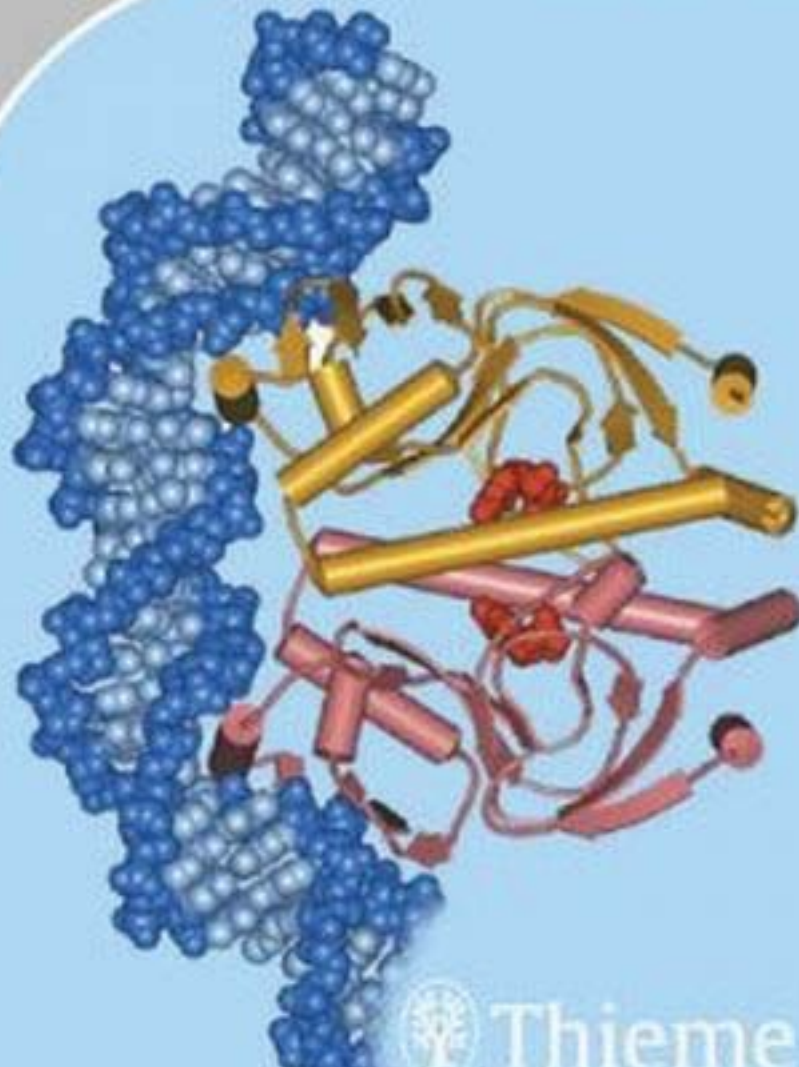


Color Atlas of Biochemistry

J. Koolman
K. H. Roehm

Second edition, revised and enlarged

basic sciences



Thieme

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Jan Koolman

Professor
Philipps University Marburg
Institute of Physiologic Chemistry
Marburg, Germany

Klaus-Heinrich Roehm

Professor
Philipps University Marburg
Institute of Physiologic Chemistry
Marburg, Germany

215 color plates by Juergen Wirth

Thieme

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About the Authors



Jan Koolman (left) was born in Lübeck, Germany, and grew up with the sea wind blowing off the Baltic. The high school he attended in the Hanseatic city of Lübeck was one that focused on providing a classical education, which left its mark on him. From 1963 to 1969, he studied biochemistry at the University of Tübingen. He then took his doctorate (in the discipline of chemistry) at the University of Marburg, under the supervision of biochemist Peter Karlson. In Marburg, he began to study the biochemistry of insects and other invertebrates. He took his postdoctoral degree in 1977 in the field of human medicine, and was appointed Honorary Professor in 1984. His field of study today is biochemical endocrinology. His other interests include educational methods in biochemistry. He is currently Dean of Studies in the Department of Medicine in Marburg; he is married to an art teacher.

Klaus-Heinrich Röhm (right) comes from Stuttgart, Germany. After graduating from the School of Protestant Theology in Urach—another institution specializing in classical studies—and following a period working in the field of physics, he took a diploma in biochemistry at the University of Tübingen, where the two authors first met. Since 1970, he has also worked in the Department of

took his doctorate under the supervision of Friedhelm Schneider, and his postdoctoral degree in 1980 was in the Department of Chemistry. He has been an Honorary Professor since 1986. His research group is concerned with the structure and function of enzymes involved in amino acid metabolism. He is married to a biologist and has two children.

Jürgen Wirth (center) studied in Berlin and at the College of Design in Offenbach, Germany. His studies focused on free graphics and illustration, and his diploma topic was “The development and function of scientific illustration.” From 1963 to 1977, Jürgen Wirth was involved in designing the exhibition space in the Senckenberg Museum of Natural History in Frankfurt am Main, while at the same time working as a freelance associate with several publishing companies, providing illustrations for schoolbooks, non-fiction titles, and scientific publications. He has received several awards for book illustration and design. In 1978, he was appointed to a professorship at the College of Design in Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany, and in 1986 he became Professor of Design at the Academy of Design in Darmstadt, Germany. His specialist fields include scientific graphics/information graphics and illustration methods. He is married and has three children.

Preface

Biochemistry is a dynamic, rapidly growing field, and the goal of this color atlas is to illustrate this fact visually. The precise boundaries between biochemistry and related fields, such as cell biology, anatomy, physiology, genetics, and pharmacology, are difficult to define and, in many cases, arbitrary. This overlap is not coincidental. The object being studied is often the same—a nerve cell or a mitochondrion, for example—and only the point of view differs.

For a considerable period of its history, biochemistry was strongly influenced by chemistry and concentrated on investigating metabolic conversions and energy transfers. Explaining the composition, structure, and metabolism of biologically important molecules has always been in the foreground. However, new aspects inherited from biochemistry's other parent, the biological sciences, are now increasingly being added: the relationship between chemical structure and biological function, the pathways of information transfer, observance of the ways in which biomolecules are spatially and temporally distributed in cells and organisms, and an awareness of evolution as a biochemical process. These new aspects of biochemistry are bound to become more and more important.

Owing to space limitations, we have concentrated here on the biochemistry of humans and mammals, although the biochemistry of other animals, plants, and microorganisms is no less interesting. In selecting the material for this book, we have put the emphasis on subjects relevant to students of human medicine. The main purpose of the atlas is to serve as an overview and to provide visual information quickly and efficiently. Referring to textbooks can easily fill any gaps. For readers encountering biochemistry for the first time, some of the plates may look rather complex. It must be emphasized, therefore, that the atlas is not intended as a substitute for a comprehensive textbook of biochemistry.

As the subject matter is often difficult to vis-

elements had to be found that make complicated phenomena appear tangible. The graphics were designed conservatively, the aim being to avoid illustrations that might look too spectacular or exaggerated. Our goal was to achieve a visual and aesthetic way of representing scientific facts that would be simple and at the same time effective for teaching purposes. Use of graphics software helped to maintain consistency in the use of shapes, colors, dimensions, and labels, in particular. Formulae and other repetitive elements and structures could be handled easily and precisely with the assistance of the computer.

Color-coding has been used throughout to aid the reader, and the key to this is given in two special color plates on the front and rear inside covers. For example, in molecular models each of the more important atoms has a particular color: gray for carbon, white for hydrogen, blue for nitrogen, red for oxygen, and so on. The different classes of biomolecules are also distinguished by color: proteins are always shown in brown tones, carbohydrates in violet, lipids in yellow, DNA in blue, and RNA in green. In addition, specific symbols are used for the important coenzymes, such as ATP and NAD⁺. The compartments in which biochemical processes take place are color-coded as well. For example, the cytoplasm is shown in yellow, while the extracellular space is shaded in blue. Arrows indicating a chemical reaction are always black and those representing a transport process are gray.

In terms of the visual clarity of its presentation, biochemistry has still to catch up with anatomy and physiology. In this book, we sometimes use simplified ball-and-stick models instead of the classical chemical formulae. In addition, a number of compounds are represented by space-filling models. In these cases, we have tried to be as realistic as possible. The models of small molecules are based on conformations calculated by computer-based molecular modeling. In illustrat-

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