The Biochemical Society's Forty-Seventh Symposium, held in London in December 1981, assembled some of the leading workers in this area of biochemistry. The subjects for discussion were chosen for their timeliness and distinctiveness, and included accounts of ribosome and messenger RNA structure and function, initiation factors, caps and ribonucleoproteins, as well as consideration of the processes leading to the distribution of newly synthesized proteins within the cell. The papers presented are now published in this volume.
Traditionally, the multiplicity of the reactions involved in immune responses have been a source of excitement to some and yet frustration to many. However, with the advent of modern techniques in molecular biology, a considerable understanding of these complexities has begun to emerge. In recognition of the enormous contribution made to this field by Rodney Porter, the Biochemical Society held a special symposium in his honour in Oxford during July 1985. This volume contains the papers that were presented in tribute at the symposium.

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