

Symmetry in Structural Biology and Protein Characterization

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Message from the Guest Editors

Modern structural biology and protein characterization draws from many disciplines, such as crystallography, X-ray diffraction, cryo-electron microscopy, protein purification and biochemistry. The symmetric nature of many biological macromolecules and macromolecular assemblies such as the tertiary and quaternary structures of proteins and enzymes often carries functional significance, such as being a vital feature in inducing and sustaining catalysis. This Special Issue examines the symmetric nature of biological macromolecular assemblies, the contribution of their structural traits to maintaining proper biological function and different hierarchical levels of biostructural organization. It also welcomes original research articles, short communications and review papers on the molecular characterization and structural assembly features of polypeptides, globular proteins, protein quaternary structure, viruses, nucleic acids, tubular crystals and ordinary three-dimensional crystal assemblies of biological macromolecules.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Symmetry is ultimately the most important concept in natural sciences. It is not surprising then that very basic and fundamental research achievements are related to symmetry. For instance, the Nobel Prize in Physics 1979 (Glashow, Salam, Weinberg) was received for a unified symmetry description of electromagnetic and weak interactions, while the Nobel Prize in Physics 2008 (Nambu, Kobayashi, Maskawa) was received for the discovery of the mechanism of spontaneous breaking of symmetry, including CP symmetry. Our journal is named *Symmetry* and it manifests its fundamental role in nature.

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