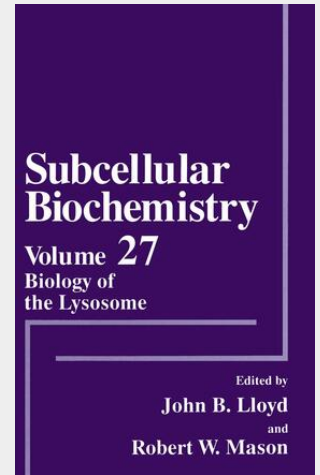


## Biology of the Lysosome

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"Lysosomes are now known to be not just a collection of isolated organelles of interest only to the biochemist, but part of a complex, dynamic, membranous system essential to the cell's economy." So wrote the late Dame Honor Fell and I in the preface to the first volume of *Lysosomes in Biology and Pathology* almost 30 years ago. We went on to say that research on the lysosomal system at the time was in a state of explosive and chaotic growth. While the chaos has been largely reduced, the growth of research into the biology of the lysosome remains considerable. Biologists worldwide are still fascinated by the diversity of activities and the interaction between the various membranous systems of the cell, both in biological and pathological situations. The present volume, edited by John Lloyd and Robert Mason, who have each made major contributions to research in this field, continues to systematize the growth of information in this important area. Taken together, the twelve chapters of this volume form an extensive update of our knowledge of the biological and physiological role of the lysosomal system. The book will enhance our knowledge of cell function and help in our understanding of the factors that control cell metabolism in health and disease. John T. Dingle Hughes Hall Cambridge, England ix Preface Lysosomes are still orphan organelles. Even in the 1990s, it is not unknown for members of a scientific or medical audience to reveal, by a question following a lecture, that they confuse lysosome with lysozyme or liposome. And this ignorance has a deeper reason than mere confusion over similar-sounding terms. It arises because lysosomes exist on the periphery of cell function, rather than at its center.

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49,99 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

*Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage*

**Artikelnummer:** 9781461376743

**Medium:** Buch

**ISBN:** 978-1-4613-7674-3

**Verlag:** Springer US

**Erscheinungstermin:** 05.11.2012

**Sprache(n):** Englisch

**Auflage:** 1996

**Serie:** Subcellular Biochemistry

**Produktform:** Kartoniert

**Gewicht:** 633 g

**Seiten:** 416

**Format (B x H):** 152 x 229 mm

