

branes. Many of the individual chapters, which present a good mix of biophysical function and what we benighted channel-mutagenesis types balefully call "structure," will soon fade as the fast-moving wave of discovery passes; indeed, the glaring absence of the inward rectifier K^+ channels merely attests to the velocity of this wave. Such is the inherent nature of "handbooks." They serve the same useful purpose as do occasional trips to the zoo: intellectual recreation that may stimulate a more lasting interest in particular aspects of a broad subject.

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