

# Contents

Preface — v

Tracey A. Rouault biography — vii

List of contributing authors — xvii

Francesco Bonomi and Tracey A. Rouault

## **1 Iron-sulfur proteins: a historical perspective — 1**

1.1 Framing the scene — 1

1.2 The early days of “nonheme iron” — 1

1.3 Of proteins and analogues — 2

1.4 Beyond electron shuttles — 6

1.5 How are FeS clusters synthesized in cells? — 7

Acknowledgments — 8

References — 8

Toshiko Ichiye

## **2 Chemistry of iron-sulfur clusters — 11**

2.1 Introduction — 11

2.2 Electronic structure of Fe-S complexes — 12

2.2.1 Spin-polarization and strong metal-ligand bonds — 12

2.2.2 Spin-coupling and metal-metal bonds — 14

2.2.3 Spin resonance delocalization in mixed-valence iron pairs — 14

2.3 Unique properties of Fe-S clusters — 15

2.3.1 Stable rigid clusters mean low reorganization energy — 15

2.3.2 Polynuclear clusters mean multiple valency — 16

2.3.3 Resonance delocalization and  $[\text{Fe}_4\text{S}_4(\text{Cys})_4]$  cluster conversion — 16

2.4 Summary — 18

Acknowledgments — 18

References — 18

Louis Noodleman

## **3 From the quantum chemistry of iron sulfur clusters to redox energetics and reaction pathways in metalloenzymes — 21**

3.1 Introduction — 21

3.2 Iron sulfur cluster geometric coordination and electronic structure — 22

3.3 Spin polarized DFT – fundamentals — 24

3.4 Exchange correlation energies and potentials — 27

3.5 Electron densities, unitary transformations, and invariants for energies and properties — 28

3.6 Spin polarization and the inverted level scheme — 29

3.7	Spin coupling and BS — 31
3.8	Spin barycenter energy — 34
3.9	Electron localization and delocalization — 35
3.10	Electron trapping – inner and environmental effects — 37
3.11	Protein and solvent interactions with the quantum cluster — 38
3.11.1	Poisson-Boltzmann PC: Model 1 — 39
3.11.2	te, Poisson-Boltzmann self-consistent reaction field (PB-SCRF): Model 2 — 39
3.12	Redox potential and $pK_a$ fundamentals — 40
3.13	Rieske cluster and electron-proton coupling — 41
3.14	Hyperfine coupling — 42
3.15	Polynuclear systems – redox potentials and spin dependent terms — 44
3.16	Iron-sulfur nitrosyl complexes — 49
3.17	Iron-sulfur cluster enzymes in pathogens — 58
3.17.1	Adenosine 5'-phosphosulfate reductase (APSR) — 58
3.17.2	Isoprenoid synthesis enzyme H — 64
3.18	Concluding remarks — 68
	Acknowledgments — 69
	References — 69

Yisong Guo and Jikun Li

<b>4</b>	<b>Bioinorganic spectroscopy of iron sulfur proteins—an overview — 77</b>
4.1	Introduction — 77
4.2	Optical techniques — 79
4.2.1	Electronic absorption spectroscopy — 79
4.2.2	CD Spectroscopy — 81
4.2.3	Raman and IR spectroscopic techniques — 85
4.3	Magnetic techniques — 95
4.3.1	Electron paramagnetic resonance — 95
4.3.2	Pulsed EPR spectroscopy — 108
4.3.3	Mössbauer spectroscopy — 121
4.4	Concluding remarks — 129
	Acknowledgments — 130
	References — 130

Doros T. Petasis and Michael P. Hendrich

<b>5</b>	<b>Quantitative interpretation of EPR spectroscopy with applications for iron-sulfur proteins — 135</b>
5.1	Introduction — 135
5.2	Basic EPR theory — 136
5.3	<i>g</i> Factor anisotropy — 138

- 5.4      Hyperfine structure — 138
- 5.5      Ligand interactions — 140
- 5.6      Spin Hamiltonian — 141
- 5.7      Basic EPR instrumentation — 142
- 5.8      Simulation of powder spectra — 143
- 5.9      Quantitative aspects — 145
- 5.10     Examples — 147
- 5.10.1     $S = 1/2$  systems — 147
- 5.10.2    Spin systems with  $S = 3/2, 5/2, 7/2$ , etc. — 151
- 5.10.3    Spin systems with  $S = 1, 2, 3$ , etc. — 156
- 5.11     Conclusion — 160
- References — 160

Mrinmoy Chakrabarti and Paul A. Lindahl

## **6    The utility of Mössbauer spectroscopy in eukaryotic cell biology and animal physiology — 163**

- 6.1      Introduction — 163
- 6.2      Transitions associated with MBS — 163
- 6.3      Coordination chemistry of iron — 165
- 6.4      Electron spin angular momentum and EPR spectroscopy — 167
- 6.5      High-spin vs low-spin  $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}$  complexes — 167
- 6.6      Isomer shift ( $\delta$ ) and quadrupole splitting ( $\Delta E_Q$ ) — 167
- 6.7      Effects of a magnetic field — 168
- 6.8      Slow vs fast relaxation limit — 169
- 6.9      MB properties of individual Fe centers found in biological systems — 170
- 6.10     Magnetically interacting Fe aggregates — 172
- 6.11     Insensitivity of MBS and a requirement for  $^{57}\text{Fe}$  enrichment — 173
- 6.12     Invariance of spectral intensity among Fe centers — 174
- 6.12.1    Mitochondria — 174
- 6.12.2    Vacuoles — 177
- 6.12.3    Whole yeast cells — 178
- 6.12.4    Human mitochondria and cells — 179
- 6.12.5    Blood — 179
- 6.12.6    Heart — 181
- 6.12.7    Liver — 181
- 6.12.8    Spleen — 182
- 6.12.9    Brain — 182
- 6.13     Limitations of MBS and future directions — 184
- Acknowledgments — 185
- References — 186

Nathaniel S. Sickerman, Markus Ribbe, and Yilin Hu

**7 The interstitial carbide of the nitrogenase M-cluster: insertion pathway and possible function — 191**

- 7.1 Introduction — 191
- 7.2 Proposed role of NifB in carbide insertion — 192
- 7.3 Accumulation of a cluster intermediate on NifB — 194
- 7.4 Investigation of the insertion of carbide into the M-cluster — 196
- 7.5 Refining methyltransfer and hydrogen atom abstraction steps in NifB — 199
- 7.6 Tracing the fate of carbide during substrate turnover — 201
- References — 202

Thomas Spatzal, Susana L. A. Andrade and Oliver Einsle

**8 The iron-molybdenum cofactor of nitrogenase — 205**

- 8.1 Introduction — 205
- 8.2 The metal clusters of nitrogenase — 206
- 8.3 Structure of FeMoco — 207
- 8.4 Redox properties of FeMoco — 209
- 8.5 An overlooked detail: the central light atom — 210
- 8.6 The nature of X — 212
- 8.7 Insights into the electronic structure of FeMoco — 216
- 8.8 A central carbon – consequences and perspectives — 217
- Acknowledgments — 219
- References — 219

Joseph T. Jarrett

**9 Biotin synthase: a role for iron-sulfur clusters in the radical-mediated generation of carbon-sulfur bonds — 223**

- 9.1 Introduction — 223
- 9.2 Sulfur atoms in biomolecules — 224
- 9.3 Biotin chemistry and biosynthesis — 225
- 9.4 The biotin synthase reaction — 227
- 9.5 The structure of biotin synthase and the radical SAM superfamily — 229
- 9.6 The [4Fe-4S]<sup>2+</sup> cluster and the radical SAM superfamily — 233
- 9.7 The [2Fe-2S]<sup>2+</sup> cluster and the sulfur insertion reaction — 236
- 9.8 Characterization of an intermediate containing 9-MDTB and a [2Fe-2S]<sup>+</sup> cluster — 237
- 9.9 Other important aspects of the biotin synthase reaction — 238
- 9.10 A role for iron-sulfur cluster assembly in the biotin synthase reaction — 240

- 9.11 Possible mechanistic similarities with other sulfur insertion radical SAM enzymes — 241
- Acknowledgments — 243
- References — 243

## Russ Hille

- 10 Molybdenum-containing iron-sulfur enzymes — 249**
- 10.1 Introduction — 249
- 10.2 The xanthine oxidase family — 250
- 10.2.1 *D. gigas* aldehyde:ferredoxin oxidoreductase — 251
- 10.2.2 Bovine xanthine oxidoreductase — 253
- 10.2.3 Aldehyde oxidases — 261
- 10.2.4 CO dehydrogenase — 264
- 10.2.5 4-Hydroxybenzoyl-CoA reductase — 268
- 10.3 The DMSO reductase family — 269
- 10.3.1 DMSO reductase and DMS dehydrogenase — 271
- 10.3.2 Polysulfide reductase — 281
- 10.3.3 Ethylbenzene dehydrogenase — 285
- 10.3.4 Formate dehydrogenases — 286
- 10.3.5 Bacterial nitrate reductases — 296
- 10.3.6 Arsenite oxidase and arsenate reductase — 304
- 10.3.7 Pyrogallol:phloroglucinol transhydroxylase — 308
- 10.4 Prospectus — 310
- References — 311

## Nicholas D. Lanz and Squire J. Booker

- 11 The role of iron-sulfur clusters in the biosynthesis of the lipoyl cofactor — 327**
- 11.1 Introduction — 327
- 11.2 Discovery of LA — 327
- 11.3 Functions of the lipoyl cofactor — 328
- 11.3.1 LA in primary metabolism — 328
- 11.3.2 LA as an antioxidant — 330
- 11.4 Pathways for lipoyl cofactor biosynthesis — 331
- 11.4.1 The exogenous pathway — 331
- 11.4.2 The endogenous pathway — 332
- 11.5 Characterization of LipA — 333
- 11.5.1 The discovery of LipA — 333
- 11.5.2 *In vivo* characterization of LipA — 333
- 11.5.3 LipA is an iron-sulfur enzyme — 335
- 11.5.4 LipA is an RS enzyme — 336

- 11.5.5 Product inhibition of LipA — 340
- 11.5.6 LipA contains two [4Fe-4S] clusters — 341
- 11.5.7 Two distinct roles for the two iron-sulfur clusters in LipA — 343
- 11.5.8 A unique intermediate in LipA catalysis — 344
- 11.5.9 Evidence for substrate-based radicals during LipA catalysis — 346
- 11.5.10 Structural insights into LipA catalysis — 347
- 11.5.11 A proposed mechanism for the biosynthesis of the lipoyl cofactor — 350
- 11.6 Conclusions — 350
- Acknowledgments — 351
- References — 351

Yvain Nicolet and Juan C. Fontecilla-Camps

**12 Iron-sulfur clusters and molecular oxygen: function, adaptation, degradation, and repair — 359**

- 12.1 Introduction — 359
- 12.2 Fe-S clusters – reasons for their abundance — 360
  - 12.2.1 Origin of Fe-S clusters — 360
  - 12.2.2 Functions of Fe-S clusters — 361
- 12.3 Oxygen and Fe-S clusters — 363
  - 12.3.1 Properties of molecular oxygen and its partially reduced species — 363
  - 12.3.2 Oxidative damage to Fe-S clusters — 365
  - 12.3.3 Molecular mechanisms of oxidative damage to Fe<sub>4</sub>S<sub>4</sub> clusters — 366
  - 12.3.4 Fe<sub>3</sub>S<sub>4</sub> to Fe<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> cluster conversion in FNR — 367
  - 12.3.5 X-ray crystallographic studies — 367
  - 12.3.6 Alternative reactions can occur and compete — 369
  - 12.3.7 Structural changes — 370
- 12.4 Adaptation to oxygen — 370
  - 12.4.1 Switch between metabolisms or restriction to niches — 372
  - 12.4.2 O<sub>2</sub>-tolerant NiFe hydrogenases — 373
  - 12.4.3 Protective systems against ROS — 376
  - 12.4.4 Evolutionary replacement of Fe-S clusters to keep essential functions in aerobic organisms — 377
- 12.5 Conclusions — 378
- References — 379

Erin L. Dodd, Jason C. Crack, Andrew J. Thomson, and Nick E. Le Brun

**13 Reactivity of iron-sulfur clusters with nitric oxide — 387**

- 13.1 Introduction — 387
  - 13.1.1 Structure and chemistry of iron-sulfur (Fe-S) clusters that function in biological sensing — 387
  - 13.1.2 Chemistry and biology of NO — 389

- 13.1.3 The biology of NO sensing *via* Fe-S cluster proteins — 391
- 13.2 Biophysical techniques useful for studying Fe-S cluster reactions with NO — 392
  - 13.2.1 EPR spectroscopy — 393
  - 13.2.2 Mössbauer spectroscopy — 394
  - 13.2.3 Infrared spectroscopy — 394
  - 13.2.4 RR spectroscopy — 395
  - 13.2.5 Nuclear resonance vibrational spectroscopy — 395
  - 13.2.6 Stopped-flow absorbance spectroscopy — 396
  - 13.2.7 Electrospray ionization mass spectrometry — 397
- 13.3 Metal nitrosyls — 397
  - 13.3.1 The metal-NO bond — 397
  - 13.3.2 Iron-nitrosyl complexes — 399
  - 13.3.3 Formation and interchange of Fe-S cluster nitrosyl species — 401
  - 13.3.4 Nitrosylated species can be converted back to [2Fe-2S] and [4Fe-4S] Fe-S clusters — 403
  - 13.3.5 Effect of cluster protein environment on nitrosylation — 403
- 13.4 Physiologically relevant reactions of NO with Fe-S cluster proteins — 404
  - 13.4.1 “Secondary” vs. “dedicated” biological NO sensors — 404
    - 13.4.2 NsrR — 405
    - 13.4.3 FNR regulator — 412
    - 13.4.4 FnrP — 415
    - 13.4.5 Wbl family proteins — 415
    - 13.4.6 SoxRS — 419
    - 13.4.7 IRP1 and other aconitases — 422
    - 13.4.8 HcpR2 and the Hcp — 424
  - 13.5 Perspectives and future directions — 425
    - Acknowledgments — 425
    - References — 426

