

ligases (synthetases)

Enzymes that catalyse the ligation of two molecules with concomitant hydrolysis of the pyrophosphate bond in adenosine 5'-triphosphate (ATP) or a similar triphosphate, forming C–C, C–O, C–S, P–O or C–N bonds. In *recombinant DNA technology*, ligases covalently join together two sequences of DNA (e.g. *host* DNA and foreign DNA) by a phosphodiester bond.

1992, 64, 159