

PREFACE TO VOLUME 1

This volume is the first of a series concerning a new technology which is revolutionizing the study of biology, perhaps as profoundly as the discovery of the gene. As pointed out in the introductory chapter, we look forward to the future impact of the technology, but we cannot see where it might take us. The purpose of these volumes is to follow closely the explosion of new techniques and information that is occurring as a result of the newly-acquired ability to make particular kinds of precise cuts in DNA molecules. Thus we are particularly committed to rapid publication.

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