

PREFACE

The *Encyclopedia of Virology*, now in its second edition, continues to assemble the basic and practical aspects of virology in a concise form, providing a rapidly accessible synopsis of each subject for the use of both professional and interested lay readers. The number of subjects (including animal, insect, plant, and bacterial viruses) and the number of illustrations have been significantly increased, and the contents have been revised and updated. Although it is not possible to cover all members of taxonomic families or genera, important examples of each are discussed by acknowledged experts in those fields. Articles that address general subjects related to specific viruses or viral diseases help to synthesize the relevant biomedical and economic issues. Thus, the encyclopedia addresses a large number of topics that are of interest to experimentalists, clinical virologists, and students, as well as to scientists and educators in related fields. The format of the book readily lends itself both to casual reading of articles on general subjects and to use as a primary reference source. As the Foreword to this edition, we are pleased to present two articles that describe 100 years of research on Tobacco Mosaic Virus and Foot and Mouth Disease Virus. Studies of these two viruses have contributed many conceptual and practical advances to the field of virology.

Although the report of the Seventh International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) will not be published until the summer of 1999, we were provided preliminary information about prospective revisions of the scheme of virus classification. The editing and production deadlines prevented the comprehensive incorporation of these changes into the encyclopedia and we include a table listing the changes in taxa which follows the Table of Contents. This information was provided by Claude M. Fauquet who is the author of the *Taxonomy, Classification and Nomenclature of Viruses* entry and is also a member of our Advisory and ICTV Committees.

To accommodate the anticipated broad readership of the encyclopedia, we have provided a comprehensive Table of Contents that allows readers to locate any topic quickly. First, all entries are listed alphabetically by title. In the titles, common virus names are followed by the taxonomic family of the virus or viruses addressed. When viruses have not been assigned to a family, the genus is specified in the text. After the list of titles is an alphabetized list of general topics, followed by a list of all virus entries alphabetized by name.

The encyclopedia is presented in three volumes. Volume 1 covers *Adenoviruses* to *Hepatitis E Virus*, Volume 2 covers *Herpes Simplex Viruses* to *Polyomaviruses*, and Volume 3 covers *Pomoviruses* to *Zoonoses*. A complete Table of Contents appears at the beginning of each volume. When multiple viruses or subjects are addressed in a single entry, each is listed in the Table of Contents. Our aim is to allow the reader to locate quickly any topic that does not have its own separate entry by referring to the Table of Contents or the Index. The Guide to Use of the encyclopedia provides detailed information about locating subjects of interest. We have also included, as an Appendix, the complete list of all virus names from the Seventh ICTV meeting report, kindly provided by Claude M. Fauquet.

The individual articles are written by researchers who are widely acknowledged as experts in their fields. Because each entry is complete in itself, some overlap is inevitable. Redundancy has been minimized where possible, but some repetition is needed to ensure that readers can locate information without repeated reference to the index. Because the size of entries had to be limited, the information supplied is not exhaustive. Our aim was to provide the most relevant information in as concise a manner as possible. Readers should consider each entry an introduction to the specific topic addressed; the updated reading list at the end of each provides ample information for more detailed study. Further, each entry contains a 'See Also' list that directs readers to related sections in the encyclopedia.

New developments will obviously continue to emerge in the rapidly advancing field of virology, but we expect the fundamental information offered by the encyclopedia to remain valid. Contributors were asked to

project their fields into the future and to anticipate progress that can be expected at the beginning of the millennium. Our colleagues in the subspecialties of virology have consistently found the *Encyclopedia of Virology* a valuable source of quick information and a useful teaching aid. Our goal has been to make it more useful.

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