

Preface

In this volume we aim to present an easy-to-read account of the genus *Saccharomyces* that we hope will be of value to all students and researchers wishing to exploit this important genus, be it for academic or commercial purposes. Individual chapters have been commissioned to cover specific aspects of the biology of *Saccharomyces* species: growth, genetics, and metabolism, with the emphasis on methodology. Basic principles are discussed without an over-detailed, step-by-step breakdown of specific techniques, and lengthy discussions of standard molecular, biological, and biochemical techniques (e.g., polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, protein purification, DNA sequencing) have been avoided. We hope the volume will provide a quick reference to the current status of a wide range of *Saccharomyces*-specific methodologies without focusing exclusively on recent developments in molecular techniques which can be found in the ever increasing numbers of "cloning manuals." By necessity, much of what is described in this volume concentrates on one particular species of *Saccharomyces*, namely *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. This is not just a reflection of the authors' interests, but indicates the extent to which this simple eukaryote has been studied by biologists from all walks of life, for all sorts of reasons. If this volume can provide a broader knowledge base to the experienced yeast researcher, or ease the path of someone just starting work with *Saccharomyces*, then we will have achieved our aim.

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