

Life

Preface

The goal of *Life* has always been to engage the non-scientist or possible scientist in understanding how life works. We try to do that in a way that is fun, meaningful, and valuable in helping students make informed decisions on an ever-growing array of issues, from teaching evolution to human cloning and stem cells. This sixth edition continues our presentation of cutting edge life science and the technology that it spawns, with timely additions, such as discussions of animal behavior during the recent tsunami and removal of drugs such as Vioxx™ from the market.



Bruce Parker of Utah Valley State College. Ricki has taught a variety of courses and has provided genetic counseling to a private medical practice since 1984. Doug, Mariëlle, and Bruce are active instructors who teach undergraduate biology to hundreds of majors and nonmajors each semester, and all have earned recognition on their campuses as outstanding teachers.

The sixth edition of *Life* reunites four biologists whose areas of expertise complement beautifully. Geneticist and science journalist Ricki Lewis originated the text, using a unique style that weaves solid biology content with intriguing tales of scientific discovery and real-life cases and applications. Veterans from the fifth edition of *Life* are Douglas Gaffin and Mariëlle Hoefnagels of the University of Oklahoma and

Devotion to, and passion about, teaching and communicating unite our team. We thoroughly enjoy telling interesting stories that are so easy to find at all levels of biology, from molecules to ecology—the stories that, when told correctly, mesmerize even the most reluctant students, causing them to perk up and think, “Wow, I never knew that! So that’s why . . . !” We all love to watch students get excited about learning a subject they once viewed as too intimidating. Our areas of research expertise mesh beautifully, including animal physiology and behavior, plant-microorganism interactions, genetics, developmental biology, molecular biology, and biochemistry.

Together, the *Life* authors cover the breadth of general biology and make it easy for you to present the latest information to your students, using the most accessible multimedia tools available. The unique mix of scientific expertise and journalistic experience results in a textbook that is not only substantial, but also accessible.

