

Preface

As with the first edition, my main aim for the second edition of *Introducing Genetics* was to write a concise and easy-to-read introduction to the three key areas of genetics: Mendelian, molecular, and population. I have written for first year students and those studying to become biology majors, to give you a thorough grounding in genetics and prepare you for further study. The big general genetics textbooks can be imposing, especially if you have no prior genetics knowledge, but *Introducing Genetics* is written in a style that will engage, encourage, and inform. If you have previously struggled with genetics this book could change things for you. It first establishes the principles of Mendelian inheritance and the nature of chromosomes, before tackling quantitative and population genetics. The final three chapters introduce the molecular mechanisms that underlie genetics, including the techniques responsible for the current genetic revolution. As genetics affects all living organisms, I have taken examples from insects, plants, animals, and humans. The end of each chapter has questions that are carefully designed to help build your confidence in your developing understanding of genetics. I hope after reading my book you will have both the core knowledge and, most importantly, the confidence to tackle genetics in any context. Good luck with your studies!

Alison Thomas
November 2014

Acknowledgments

I have greatly appreciated the support and encouragement that I have received from the editorial and production team at Garland Science during work on this second edition. I would particularly like to thank Liz Owen, Senior Editor, and Georgina Lucas, Senior Production Editor. Special thanks are also due to Ray Loughlin, Copy Editor, Ioana Moldovan, Production Editor, and David Borrowdale, Assistant Editor. I would like to thank Dawn Hawkins and Helen Roy for their valuable discussions and comments on the manuscript during preparation of the first edition.

The author and publisher would like to thank the following external advisers and reviewers for their suggestions and advice in preparing *Introducing Genetics, Second Edition*.

John Acord, London South Bank University, UK; Samantha Alsbury, University of Greenwich, UK; Shazia Chaudhry, University of Manchester, UK; Robert Fowler, San José State University, USA; Emma Ghaffari, Brunel University, UK; Lynne Hardy, City of Sunderland College, UK; Sarabjit Mastana, Loughborough University, UK; Claire Morgan, Swansea University, UK; Cynthia Wagner, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, USA.