

Preface

As before, our aim in this 7th edition of *Introduction to Modern Virology* is to provide a broad introduction to virology, which includes the nature of viruses, the interaction of viruses with their hosts, and the consequences of those interactions that lead to the diseases we see. In doing so, we have focused predominantly on viruses that infect humans, with some examples of viruses of other animals where they illustrate a specific point. However, in the sections covering general principles and processes of virology, we have also included bacterial and plant viruses. The revised text is aimed at undergraduate students at all levels and postgraduates who are learning virology as a new subject.

We have retained the four thematic sections that were introduced in the previous edition. These cover the fundamental nature of viruses, their growth in cells, their interactions with the host organism, and their role as agents of human disease. To complement these, we have added a fifth section that incorporates material relating to virology in a wider context. Each section contains a series of chapters that are typically focused on a topic rather than concentrating on a single virus. Inevitably, some of these topics relate to information in different parts of the book and we have included extensive cross-referencing to allow the reader to explore a broader picture than is possible within a single chapter.

The pace of discovery in the field of virology has continued unabated since the last edition. Our knowledge of the molecular detail of viruses, including their interaction with the host, has increased considerably and continues to grow. We have tried to explore the breadth of this new information while retaining a concise

style. Inevitably, this has meant that we have had to choose specific examples while leaving out many others of interest, but we have tried to use examples which demonstrate broad principles as well as specific detail. There is suggested reading for those who want to follow up a subject in more depth.

The study of viruses is as topical and important as ever. The global impact of HIV and chronic hepatitis virus infections continues to be severe and, as we completed this edition, we are seeing hopeful indications of the ending of the most devastating Ebola virus outbreak ever recorded. Beyond these direct impacts on our health, viruses also continue to threaten us through effects on food supplies and our economies. Thus, a good basic understanding of viruses is important for generalists and specialists alike. Our aim in writing this book has been to try to make such understanding as accessible as possible, allowing students across the biosciences spectrum to improve their knowledge of these fascinating entities.

New to this edition

This edition contains a number of important changes and innovations. A major change has been the expansion of the consideration of immunology which now covers two chapters, one on innate immunity and the other on adaptive immunity. This reflects the growing understanding of the importance of the immune system in determining the outcome of virus infection and the contribution of the immune system to viral diseases. These chapters also consider some of the ways that viruses evade the immune response. The consideration

of vaccines and antivirals has been expanded and separated into two new chapters to reflect the importance of these approaches to prevention and treatment. Virus evolution is considered in more detail than previously, and we have added new chapters on viral hepatitis, influenza, vector-borne diseases, and exotic and emerging viral infections. Finally, in the last section we have introduced three new chapters on the broader aspects of the influence of viruses on our lives, focusing on the economic impact of virus infections, the ways we can use viruses in clinical and other spheres, and the impact that viruses have on the planet and almost every aspect of our lives.

The text is supplemented throughout by information boxes of two types. These are now distinguished by different colours. One type of box provides supporting information or

additional detail about the subject matter of the chapter while the other provides the experimental evidence by which selected key points were established. The aim is to assist the reader in understanding the facts but to also allow them to appreciate the nature of the evidence that underpins them.

We very much hope that the 7th edition of *Introduction to Modern Virology* will enrich the virology experience of students and teachers alike.

Finally, we would like express our thanks the staff at Wiley for their generous support throughout the production of this book.

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University of Warwick, October 2015