
Preface

The Nano-Bio Integrated Systems group (NaBIS) at DTU Nanotech was created in 2006 by Associate Professor Winnie E. Svendsen with a single activity as the aim, namely, the fabrication of a chromosome total analysis system. Starting with two members, the group quickly evolved into one of the largest groups at the institute, currently consisting of 18 people and participating in more than six different national and international research programs.

This book is the direct result of a report written for the EU-funded project BeNATURAL by Assistant Professor Jaime Castillo-León. The EU commissioner responsible for the project encouraged the writing of a review article based on that report. Jaime enlisted the help of group leader Associate Professor Winnie E. Svendsen and Associate Professor Maria Dimaki, and in 2009 a review article appeared in *Integrative Biology* (Castillo et al., 2009, pp. 30–42) that dealt with the manipulation of biological samples using micro- and nanotechniques.

This article received some attention and resulted in being asked if we would be interested in expanding it into a book. Well aware of the effort required, we agreed and enlisted the help of a group of experts at the institute and abroad, each a pioneer in his fields. The book proposal received some very positive reviews and suddenly it was a reality.

The road to this now-finished work was not easy and involved a lot of frustrations and hard effort. However, we are quite pleased with the result, which we feel will appeal to a broad audience, as we strived to achieve a balance between simplicity for the beginner and hardcore theory for the more advanced readers.

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3 Apple Hill Drive
Natick, MA 01760-2098 USA
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