

In the early 1980s, Bernie Fields originated the idea of a virology reference textbook that combined the molecular aspects of viral replication with the medical features of viral infections. This broad view of virology reflected Bernie's own research, which applied molecular and genetic analyses to the study of viral pathogenesis, providing an important part of the foundation for the field of molecular pathogenesis. Bernie led the publication of the first three editions of *Virology* but unfortunately died soon after the third edition went into production. The third edition became *Fields Virology* in his memory, and it is fitting that the book continues to carry his name.

We are pleased that the printed book of the sixth edition of *Fields Virology* contains four-color art throughout and that an e-book version accompanies the printed book as well. We have increased the numbers of figures in each chapter, and with the color and availability of the figures from the e-book for use as slides, most chapters should have sufficient figures for slides for one lecture. There have been continued significant advances in virology since the previous edition 6 years ago, and all of the chapters have been updated to reflect these advances. Our increased knowledge of virology has caused us to use shortened lists of key references (up to 200 in most cases) in the printed book to save space, whereas complete reference lists appear as part of the e-book. We have retained the general organization of the earlier editions for the sixth edition of *Fields Virology*. Section I contains chapters on general aspects of virology, and Section II contains chapters on replication and medical aspects of specific virus families and specific viruses of medical importance. In Section I, we have added a new emphasis on virus discovery in the Diagnostic Virology chapter and emerging viruses in the Epidemiology chapter to address the interest in discovery of new viruses and emerging viruses. In Section II, we have added new chapters on circoviruses and mimiviruses and have added a new section on Chikungunya virus to the alphavirus chapter.

Numerous chapters have been updated to include the latest information on outbreaks during the past 5 years, including pandemic H1N1 influenza, new adenovirus serotypes, noroviruses, human polyomaviruses, the re-emergence of West Nile virus in North America, novel coronaviruses, novel Coxsackie and rhino viruses, and other emerging and re-emerging viruses. Important advances in antivirals, including new hepatitis C virus protease inhibitors and HIV integrase inhibitors, have been described. As with the previous edition, we have continued to combine the medical and replication chapters into a single chapter to eliminate duplication and to present a more coherent presentation of that specific virus or virus family. The main emphasis continues to be on viruses of medical importance and interest; however, other viruses are described in specific cases where more is known about their mechanisms of replication or pathogenesis. Although not formally viruses, prions are still included in this edition for historical reasons and because of the intense interest in the infectious spongiform encephalopathies.

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