
Preface to the Third Edition

The second edition of the *Practical Handbook of Microbiology* was published in 2009, 20 years after the first edition. In recognition of the continued expansion and evolution of knowledge in the field, we have generated this third edition, in which every chapter in the second edition has been updated. Several new chapters have also been added, covering areas not included in the second edition. Most of our authors from the second edition stayed on for the third edition, but inevitably, there has been some turnover, and new authors have joined and contributed to this venture.

As noted in the Preface to the Second Edition, this book will provide basic knowledge and practical information about working with microorganisms in a clear and concise form. Although of use to anyone interested in the subject matter, the book is intended to especially benefit three groups: people trained as microbiologists that are highly specialized in working with one specific area of microbiology; people that have been trained in other disciplines and use microorganisms as simply another tool or *chemical reagent*; and, new in this edition, investors in microbiologically based companies who want to understand the technology as well as the underlying forces driving the industry.

Preface to the Second Edition

The first edition of the *Practical Handbook of Microbiology* was published in 1989. Since that time, the field of microbiology has undergone many changes and has grown to encompass other disciplines as well. New chapters have been added and a number of chapters from the first edition were dropped. Tables in the first edition that were outdated have been replaced by tables in the individual chapters. This edition also contains a new broad and concise survey table of selected eubacteria. Areas generally considered part of microbiology that were not covered or covered only briefly in the first edition are now included with comprehensive introductory chapters.

This book was written to provide basic knowledge and practical information about working with microorganisms, in a clear and concise form. Although of use to anyone interested in the subject matter, the book is intended to especially benefit two groups of microbiologists: people trained as microbiologists who are highly specialized in working with one specific area of microbiology and people who have been trained in other disciplines and use microorganisms as simply another tool or chemical reagent.

We hope our readers will share our enthusiasm for microbiology and find this book to be useful.