

Preface

Biochemistry is a dynamic, rapidly growing field, and the goal of this color atlas is to illustrate this visually. It is difficult to define precisely the cut-off points between biochemistry and its neighboring fields such as cell biology, anatomy, physiology, genetics, or pharmacology. For this reason this color atlas can be placed in the middle of the range of Thieme Flexi books.

Owing to space limitations this book focuses on human biochemistry, although the biochemistry of animals, plants, and microorganisms is no less interesting. The topics chosen concentrate on information that is relevant to students of human medicine. Again, because of the space restrictions it was impossible to avoid some gaps in the information included. It must be emphasized, therefore, that this color atlas is not intended as a substitute for a good, comprehensive textbook of biochemistry.

As in all Thieme Flexi books, color plates outlining the fundamental principles of the subject matter are the essential elements. Great emphasis has been placed on the graphic presentation—the texts can primarily be considered as expanded and complementary legends to the illustrations. As in former editions, color codes and symbols are used to aid the reader.

The key to their use will be found inside the front and back covers. We have made strenuous efforts to use these codes consistently.

The fourth edition of the color atlas has been extensively revised and expanded with students of human medicine in mind. Some material from the natural sciences has been shed, while more pathobiochemical information has been added. We have, however, endeavored to ensure that the changes fit the original concept of the book.

Our special thanks go to Thieme, especially Angelika Findgott, Annie Hollins and Sophia Hengst, for their guidance and support. We also wish to thank many colleagues, coworkers and—last but not least—interested readers for their constructive criticism, and for their positive comments and detailed recommendations for improvement. We continue to welcome further comments and suggestions in order to continue improving our color atlas for you, the reader. Please feel free to email us at koolman@staff.uni-marburg.de or roehm@staff.uni-marburg.de.

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