

WINNER OF THE 1996 SCHUMPETER SOCIETY BOOK PRIZE

'Maureen McKelvey's study of the rise of modern biotechnology as a field of science, and particularly of the work which led to the commercial introduction of human insulin and growth hormones, provides a wonderful window into the history. If this study was merely that, it would be an important work. But it is more. McKelvey's study is a major addition . . . Her treatment of technological advance in this area as an evolutionary process is an important contribution advancing that way of conceptualizing how technologies develop.'

Richard R. Nelson, Columbia University

'Her conceptual framework—evolutionary innovation—is designed to capture the kind of complexity that characterizes any natural or social ecosystem. And the episode she chooses to illuminate—the race to develop recombinant human growth hormone and insulin—is fascinating, historically significant, and occasionally dramatic.'

Nature Biotechnology

This book examines the initial commercial uses of genetic engineering. Genetic engineering is one of the most modern, controversial, and dynamic of the science-based technologies. It is not an object, but a set of techniques or way of doing things. The development of these technologies from the 1970s onwards illustrates the changing relationships between universities and firms, and between basic science and research oriented towards commercial uses.

The main focus of the book is on two firms—Genentech in the United States and Kabi in Sweden—and their activities and 'knowledge-seeking' behaviour in the development of human growth hormone and how these ran in parallel with university science.

Evolutionary Innovations was awarded the Schumpeter Society book prize in 1996. This paperback edition includes a new introduction in which the author reflects upon the most recent developments in biotechnology. The book will be of considerable interest to a wide audience concerned to understand the complexities of innovation processes in the 'knowledge society', for example, management and organization researchers, economists, policy advisers, and managers and strategists responsible for turning knowledge into product and profit.

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