When Edmund Vincent Cowdry's *General Cytology* was published in 1924, cell biology had stretched beyond the bounds of purely microscopic observation to include the chemical, physical, and genetic analysis of cells. Inspired by Cowdry's classic, watershed work, this book collects contributions from cell biologists, historians, and philosophers of science to shed new light on a century of cellular discovery. Despite extraordinary advances in describing both the structure and function of cells, cell biology tends to be overshadowed by molecular biology, a field that developed contemporaneously. *Visions of Cell Biology* remedies that unjust disparity through an investigation of cell biology's evolution and its role in pushing forward the boundaries of biological understanding.

"Cell biology is a young science with a vibrant history. Unfortunately, the highlights of this history are not well known. This very readable, wonderfully researched, and thought-provoking book provides a rich historical context for the birth of modern cell biology. As it eloquently illuminates, Cowdry's *General Cytology* grew out of gatherings at Woods Hole of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century luminaries in the nascent field of cell biology, pioneers who recognized the need to assemble and curate the current state of cellular knowledge. While it seems somewhat paradoxical to suggest that a book about a ninety-year-old book is timely, it is nonetheless quite accurate. It is extremely useful in the midst of today's breathtakingly fast-paced molecular dissections of myriad cellular processes to take a moment to understand from whence came the paradigms that motivated the field and to appreciate how and why those paradigms have evolved. A delightful synthesis of cell biology and history and philosophy of science, *Visions of Cell Biology* is clearly much greater than the sum of its parts. It is an outstanding contribution to an important field."

MICHAEL J. CAPLAN, Yale School of Medicine

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