

"Stephanie Mohr brilliantly illuminates the discovery and relevance of the fruit fly. She transforms vague public awareness of *Drosophila* into a breathtaking landscape of research, building a case for pure science as the source of most scientific surprises, revolutions, and ultimately, practical applications. Really, everything has been touched by flies; from the international laws impacted by mustard gas and radiation mutations to the testing of new drugs to the appreciation of how single egg cells turn into wonderfully complex bodies. This book illustrates why we should all be very grateful to these flies and the 'fly people' who study them."

—GEORGE CHURCH, Harvard University

"*First in Fly* distills a century of biology research on *Drosophila* into a set of exciting, mind-bending stories. Mohr captures the thrill of scientific discovery and the creative spirit of this research community, while clearly explaining the scientific findings and relating them to human biology and health. Her book tells a vital story about the remarkable extent of evolutionary conservation, and is both important in scope and a pleasure to read."

—ANDREA PAGE-MCCAW, Vanderbilt University

"*First in Fly* is a reader-friendly yet scholarly account of fruit fly biology and genetics. As Mohr clearly presents, the fly provides the best system for understanding the basic mechanisms of development and disease, and how those mechanisms apply to all other animals, including humans."

—PETER LAWRENCE, University of Cambridge

"*First in Fly* provides a superb foundation on which to explore new avenues in biology. Mohr presents a riveting account of discoveries made possible by research on the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*, over the past 110 years. No model organism has contributed more to our understanding of genetics and developmental biology. This book is highly recommended for scientists both young and established, and for all who wish to learn more about the origins of many commonly accepted facts in biology."

—HUGO BELLEN, Baylor College of Medicine

