

Mechanisms in Transcriptional Regulation provides a concise discussion of the fundamental concepts in transcription and its regulation. Beginning with an overview of RNA polymerases and the general transcriptional machinery, this book goes on to cover the mechanisms of transcriptional activation, the histone code hypothesis, the epigenetic control of transcription, and combinatorial control in signaling and development.

Mechanisms in Transcriptional Regulation contains many features designed to aid understanding. More than 80 figures crystallize and amplify the ideas presented in the text. Boxes set off from the main text offer background information on important theoretical concepts and experimental methods. Thought-provoking problems test students' understanding of key concepts. Extensive reading lists included in each chapter provide guidance for further studies. In addition, the book is accompanied by a website that includes all the art from the book in downloadable format – www.blackwellpublishing.com/courey. These features make this text an ideal resource for upper-level undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students alike.

Albert J. Courey has taught undergraduate and graduate students about mechanisms of transcription and its regulation for the last 16 years as Professor of Biochemistry at UCLA. He also directs an active research program examining the mechanisms of transcriptional regulation during fruit fly development.

Cover illustration: The Polycomb chromodomain (Protein Data Bank id 1PDQ) complexed to a portion of the histone H3 N-terminal tail containing trimethyl-lysine 27. This structure was first described in: Fischle, W., Wang, Y., Jacobs, S. A., Allis, C. D. and Khorasanizadeh, S. (2003) Molecular basis for the discrimination of repressive methyl-lysine marks in histone H3 by Polycomb and HP1 chromodomains. *Genes Dev.* **17**, 1870–1881.

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