

Preface

Biotechnology is an old science—we find applications in the Bible and applications in the antiquities. Biotechnology is a new science, being applied to numerous sectors of industry, science, medicine. Biotechnology is an effervescent science, a verdant field of research; a promise of a promise and its ferment for a bright future is everywhere.

Biotechnology today is undergoing a resurgence in a wide range of applications and it was to this end that the concept of putting this book together was made. The tremendous increase all over the world has resulted in a proliferation of new ideas and concepts as well as a large increase in available information and data in all of the biotechnologies. Although a serious effort has been made by each of the contributing specialists to this volume to present information that will have enduring value; only the present state of knowledge can be pre-

sented. It is intended to supply the practitioner and student with an authoritative reference work in the field of biotechnology. References and primary citations are given to the extensive literature for those who wish to dig deeper. The book is divided into 49 chapters, providing comprehensive, detailed, up-to-date coverage of biotechnology applications and research.

To insure the highest degree of reliability in the selected subject matter presented, the cooperation of a large number of specialists was enlisted, and this book presents their efforts. Heartfelt thanks go to these contributors, each of whom has endeavored to present an up-to-date section of his/her area of expertise and has given willingly of very valuable time and knowledge.

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