

Preface

A growing interest in enzymatic DNA methylation, by biologists of many disciplines, convinced us that publication of a volume covering all aspects of this field is due. Only four years ago, this interest could be satisfied by a brief review in *Science*, but the rapid growth of information since then demands a much more thorough and wider discussion of the subject. Therefore, we asked several authors to write chapters dealing with aspects of DNA methylation in which they are experts. In addition to the introductions included in each chapter, we also have written an introductory chapter that may serve as a general overview of the field and a directory to the rest of the book. Thus, we hope that this book will help students who are being introduced to the subject of DNA methylation, as well as established investigators in methylation or related fields.

We are most grateful to our colleagues who spent much time and effort to contribute their specialty to this book. We also want to express our gratitude to Caroline Gopin for her help in preparing this book.

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