

PREFACE

The third edition of *Instant Notes in Microbiology* has once again seen a complete rewrite of many chapters. Those on general microbiology, bacteriology and the relevant molecular biology have been completely revised and now have a more molecular focus. The chapter on bacterial infections has been also been revised. The chapters on fungi and protists have been updated and a new section on parasitic protists has been added. The chapter dealing with the viruses retains its structure, but has been revised.

In this book, the authors have chosen to use the word Bacteria to mean those members of the Kingdom Bacteria, and not in its older usage to denote non-eukaryotic microbes. For this we have used "prokaryotes" to include both the Bacteria and the Archaea. While not all taxonomists will be happy with these definitions, the terms have been used consistently throughout the book and reflect current thinking within microbiology – though no doubt this will have changed by the publication of the fourth edition.

The authors would like to thank the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Oxford and ABgene Ltd., Epsom, Surrey for help in the preparation of this book. However, we would also like to thank our families for their continuing support, as well as to colleagues and the reviewers of the second edition, who all gave us valuable feedback.