

PREFACE

Looking for that edge? Ready to learn biology, and master some of its more difficult concepts? Ready to work to improve your grade? If so, this book could be for you. The book reviews the more challenging material in a college-level, introductory course in biology. The book is intended as a supplement for a standard textbook in biology, or for students who wish to review such material.

Students who would benefit from this book might be enrolled in a major's or non-major's introductory biology course or could be taking advanced-placement biology. Others who would benefit might be studying for an exam based on such a course, such as the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) or an advanced-placement biology exam.

This book does not cover every topic that might be included in an introductory biology course. It dwells on the more difficult concepts—those that usually give students the most difficulty. I have tried to distill the core material to its essence, and provide ample opportunity to test your mastery of that material. There are few figures in the book because you have such figures in your text. If you are visually oriented, you probably will find it helpful to review such figures as you read this book. An asterisk (*) next to a problem or question indicates that it is especially difficult or challenging. Good luck and enjoy it.

Wherever you see (■) in the text, there is additional material on the Internet related to this topic. The Web site is located at <http://www.blackwellscience.com>. The site also contains many additional practice questions.

I thank Nancy Hill-Whilton, Irene Herlihy, and Jill Connor at Blackwell Science for their help and suggestions. It has been a pleasure working with them to bring one of Nancy Hill-Whilton's modules to life. I also thank the following reviewers for their numerous helpful suggestions for improving the presentation and coverage of this study guide: Sylvester Allred, Northern Arizona University; Wendy Bramlett, Sweet Briar College; Ann Lumsden, Florida State University; Holly Miner, University of South Dakota; and David Starret, Southeast Missouri State University. This book is dedicated to Mom, Dad, Peggy, and Mariah.

David L. Wilson, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology
University of Miami