

PREFACE

Human Biology: Exploring Concepts is appropriate for a one-quarter or one-semester course that covers the biology of humans—from the way our bodies work to how we affect the world around us. The goal of *Human Biology: Exploring Concepts* is to educate an important audience—nonscience majors—in an area of primary concern—biology. Human biology is an important area of study because it may be the only biology course, or even the only science course, that many students take during their undergraduate careers. Now that biological issues have become central to everyone's lives, these students need to be educated in order to make intelligent decisions now as well as in the future.

Human Biology: Exploring Concepts is a new kind of text that focuses on key biological concepts to explain the workings of the human body and uses a visual writing style to explain processes. By focusing on key concepts, the student gains a basic understanding of underlying principles before attempting to piece together detailed information. Appropriate analogies enable students to visualize *how things work*. Students will find this book interesting and entertaining, and in the process will learn how human beings function at the cellular level and in the biosphere.

Because illustrations are an excellent teaching tool, *Human Biology: Exploring Concepts* is abundantly illustrated in full color. In many instances an illustration can communicate an idea more effectively than a textual explanation, thus where appropriate, illustrations are used instead of a complicated narrative explanation. The art program, in conjunction with the text analogies, reinforces the basic principles of biology and helps the student visualize the concepts.

Pedagogy

The pedagogy and the conceptual approach of this text enhance student learning. The following aids provide a framework upon which students can build concepts.

Chapter Introductions

Each chapter opens with an inviting preview of the topic to be covered. This opening narrative will help students understand the material better by giving them a general idea of what they are about to read.

Learning Objectives

The learning objectives are placed within the chapter immediately following each major heading to prepare the students for important points in the material that follows.