

This book comes at a time of unprecedented upheaval in chromatin research. The past decade has witnessed many new developments in the field, and many 'rediscoveries' of already forgotten or neglected observations or ideas. The challenge of understanding how genomes and genes function in the context of chromatin is even greater than before: the more we learn, the more we understand that our knowledge is much too limited, that we have only seen the tip of the iceberg, and that we need to combine efforts to not only describe new phenomena but to understand the structures underlying these phenomena. The horizon has broadened enormously; now we need to go for the depth.

The idea for this book germinated from our efforts to organize an international symposium of the same name in May of 2002 (meeting reviewed by E. M. Bradbury in *Molecular Cell* **10**, 13–19, 2002). The excitement that meeting created in us and the participants indicated that we had hit a raw nerve in bringing a field to its structural roots.

Fifteen years have passed since the Green Bible of Ken van Holde was published. The compilation of the present comprehensive in-depth chapters was motivated by the desire to fill, at least in part, the vacuum in overviewing the chromatin structure and dynamics field in a way that attempts to give a unified view of a complex and fast-moving field. Although a compilation of chapters written by different authors cannot be, by definition, as good as a monograph in terms of a unified perspective, it has its own advantages in that it provides the readers with broader, sometimes even contrasting views; having such views appearing in a single book is certainly helpful to the development of any field of science. We have selected our authors in a most careful way, so that the entire chromatin structure/dynamics field is represented in sufficient depth. Our authors are all recognized experts in their areas of research, which we believe is a major condition (and grounds) for success. The anonymous reviewers also made major contributions to the quality of each and every chapter. To all authors and reviewers, many, many thanks for their effort and endurance.

We would like, with this book, to welcome the new investigators coming to our fascinating field. Let us, the more established researchers, embrace these people and give them all the support they may need to succeed.

Thanks, and enjoy.

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