

Preface

MOLECULAR BIOTECHNOLOGY HAS MADE MAJOR ADVANCES since the second edition of *Molecular Biotechnology: Principles and Applications of Recombinant DNA* was published in 1998. Otherwise, a new edition wouldn't be necessary! Molecular biotechnology is no longer based on the hope that recombinant DNA technology will someday produce worthwhile "goods and services." The last 4 years has seen many molecular biotechnology products for medical, agricultural, and industrial uses become commonplace. Recombinant DNA technology has finally lived up to all the hype. Along with this maturity, new developments and innovative techniques have been perfected. In this new edition, we were able to update all aspects of *Molecular Biotechnology*, although the original framework has been maintained. A number of chapters have been extensively overhauled to accommodate new information, some chapters have been conflated with others, many new figures that illustrate concepts and principles have been added, and various recent examples replace those from the mid-1990s and earlier. And, as noted in the prefaces to the previous editions, we have tried both not to rely on confusing scientific terminology for its own sake and to present all the information as clearly as possible.

We appreciate the support and enthusiasm of Jeff Holtmeier, director of ASM Press. We thank Mary McKenney, who edited the manuscript with consummate skill and understanding. And we are especially indebted to Ken April of ASM Press, who patiently shepherded us through the entire process and, with the greatest aplomb, combined all the disparate elements to create this new edition.