

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

This edition of *Principles of Molecular Virology* seeks to build on the success of the first and second editions. In addition to complete updating, numerous additions (and hopefully, enhancements) have been made to the text. These include new sections on 'Viruses and Apoptosis' (Chapter 6) and 'Bacteriophages and Human Disease' (Chapter 7), the addition of learning objectives for each chapter and a new appendix describing key events in the history of virology (Appendix 3). However, probably the first change most readers will notice is a new format with the addition of colour illustrations to enhance understanding of key points.

An exciting new development has been the inclusion of an electronic companion to the book in the form of the enclosed CD. In addition to interactive learning resources on the CD which complement each chapter, the 'Virology Online' section has been written to encourage readers with access to the internet to go beyond reading the text of the book to find more information online.

I would like to extend my thanks to all of my academic colleagues who have helped with the preparation of this edition, but in particular I value the contribution of the many people who have contacted me with suggestions and comments regarding the previous editions. I hope that readers of this edition will continue to do so. I would also like to thank the editorial staff of Academic Press for their support and assistance during the preparation of the book. Finally, I would like to thank my family for respecting the sign which has spent many hours on the door of my study, 'I am working. Please don't come in'. It's OK now kids, I've taken the sign down.

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