

Foreword

This is the third book in the "Experimenter" series. We are pleased that, after *Protein Chemistry/Proteomics* and *Molecular Biology/Genomics*, we were, allowed to write a summary of the two disciplines with respect to microarrays.

We tried to preserve the tone and style of these first two books and to present this dry science in a lighter manner than most textbooks do. The terms we used are the same ones that you will hear in a laboratory. In the original German we used many nontranslatable English terms by leaving them as they were or sometimes Germanizing them.

Experimenter—Microarray is directed at the reader who has knowledge in the fields of protein chemistry or molecular biology but hasn't immersed himself into the depths of microarray applications, instrumentation, and software.

This book is designed to give a summary and overview of microarray technology without going into all possible detail in these fields. We do give the necessary detail (in our subjective opinion) that the reader needs in order to understand microarray technologies. We have quoted primary and secondary literature as well as useful Web sites so that you can research all the detail we didn't cover. *Experimenter—Microarray* is structured so that the reader is guided from the development in the mid-90s through the various problems of the users to the specific applications, instruments, and analyses. Terms from various disciplines from recombinant biotechnology to quantum physics are explained: terms that are helpful and sometimes necessary for the understanding

of microarray applications and the solving of the problems that crop up. We mention all technologies and all product names without regard to the existing patents and trademarks. We herewith explicitly point out that a license issued by the patent holder is necessary for the use of microarray applications as well as for many of the protein chemical and molecular methods we describe in this book. The experimenter must inform him- or herself about the patent situation and protect him- or herself by dealing with the suppliers and/or the patent holders. All of the mentioned Web sites were tested as to their Web availability and as to the correct link as of March 2004. If the link is no longer available as you read this, a search for these pages by using one of the many search engines should be helpful.

We hope that *Experimenter-Microarray* will be as successful as its two *Experiment* predecessors. In case a second edition comes to be, we will be happy to listen to readers' criticisms and suggestions for improvement. There are always errors and inaccuracies in the detail that even after several reading of editors and authors aren't totally eliminated. We would also happily include some of your favorite topics in the next edition. If you wish you can contact us via e-mail at roeder@molekularbiologie.net or mueller@molekularbiologie.net.

We hope you have fun reading this book.
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Thomas Röder
Hans-Joachim Müller