

Preface

Dear Microbiology Instructors and Students:

Nearly seven years ago, we decided to create an in-house laboratory manual to be used in the microbiology courses taught at Fresno City College. This enabled our technical support staff to coordinate as many as seven sections of microbiology each semester; it also enabled instructors and students to initiate and complete multiple experiments in a single lab period. The first 3 editions of this manual were printed on the Fresno City College campus. In publishing this 4th edition, we have endeavored to incorporate revisions and corrections suggested by the instructors and students who have used previous editions.

The majority of students enrolling in Fresno City College's microbiology course are completing it as a prerequisite for admission to a variety of healthcare programs (i.e. nursing, dental hygiene). We hope that instructors teaching a comparable non-majors microbiology course at other institutions may find this manual helpful.

We have created this manual with the student in mind. There are numerous boxed alerts designed to not only indicate important facts, but also to catch the student's attention regarding many simple but common errors which can occur while completing various experimental procedures. Since both Rosane Chacanaca and Virginia Osborne have actually been students in the course, they provide a unique perspective. The manual was written using their insight to increase student comprehension of the principle(s) involved in each experiment.

To get a better feeling for actual clinical microbiology protocols currently in use, Rosemary Waters spent many weeks observing in the microbiology laboratory at St. Agnes Medical Center located in Fresno, California. Any new experiments or revisions to existing experiments were tested by a current Fresno City College student, Michelle Thakham, as part of an independent study project. It is our hope that the organisms used in these experiments continue to "behave" typically, so results are consistent.

Finally, we would like to note that all the proceeds from this manual are designated for deposit into a scholarship account managed by the State Center Community College Foundation. Each year, these monies are awarded to re-entry women majoring in natural science or a health related major.

We hope that all instructors and students who use this manual will enjoy it and find it helpful.

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