## Preface

This monography is intended to summarize the outstanding contributions the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* has made to molecular and cell biology over half a century. As a simple and fast growing eukaryotic organism tractable to genetic and biochemical approaches it has served as a suitable model system, in which basic cellular processes could be investigated. This is mainly due to the fact that – particularly after its complete genome had become known as the first one among eukaryotes – many components mediating such pathways were found to be evolutionary conserved from yeast to man.

Over the years, I have kept a collection of papers demonstrating the achievements in various fields. I also gained a lot of information from the weekly seminars that were arranged in the departments where I worked and from lectures and courses that I had a chance to present. I gratefully remember the many fruitful discussions with my colleagues from all over the world – at congresses or privately – which helped broaden my background.

Foremost, I wish to thank André Goffeau and Jean-Luc Souciet, who suggested and helped to compile a catalogue of research fields in molecular and cell biology to which yeast made significant contributions. I am indebted to B. Dujon, A. Goffeau, M. Ghislain, C. Marck, F. Messenguy, P. Morsomme, T. F. Outeiro, C. Rodrigues-Pousada for critical reading of the manuscript and many useful comments and suggestions. Not to forget the nice contacts I found during the Yeast Genome and the Génolevures Projects.

I have tried to document the developments by including more than 2000 references. Whenever possible, these references are selected such that the reader can follow achievements made over the past years. By far, this collection will not completely mirror the engagement of so many yeast laboratories. Wherever possible, I cited original papers, but in many cases I had to rely on review articles contributed during these years by competent researchers. Therefore, I apologize to all colleagues who might be disappointed that their original work has not been quoted adequately. Further, I could only briefly mention (or even had to exclude) work that aimed at deciphering biochemical pathways that otherwise would have

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been worth covering in more detail. It may even be that I gave preference to topics that bear a certain relationship to my own research.

With great pleasure, I wish to acknowledge the care of the team of WILEY-BLACKWELL publishers at Weinheim in editing and manufacturing this book. Dr. Evgenia Koutsouki (Publishing Editor, Life Sciences) kindly guided our first correspondence in September 2008 and invited external reviewers for the manuscript. Once the comments were positive, it was Dr. Andreas Sendtko (Publishing Manager) and his colleagues from the production department to take over. Many thanks for their excellent and accurate handling of my manuscript and the pictures, so I had little trouble with corrections.

The major headache encountered when researching this book was with Deutsche Telekom, who did not manage for a total of eight years to establish a DSL line to our new domicile in Bergkirchen. This meant that I had to use a tediously slow but expensive ISDN internet connection for all my searches.

Finally, but most importantly, I whole heartedly thank my wife Hildegard for her patience and encouragement, who for many years found me toiling over my computer at home.

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*Horst Feldmann*