

Few new fields have elicited such intense research effort in recent years as apoptosis, or programmed cell death. Apoptosis is thought to be critical to the maintenance of homeostasis and is implicated in lowering susceptibility to tumour growth. Conversely, over-sensitivity to apoptotic triggers can cause cells to be lost inappropriately from tissues, as appears to occur in neuro-degenerative diseases. *Apoptosis* provides an in-depth analysis of the molecular pathways regulating apoptosis, progressing from *C. elegans* through *Drosophila* to the more complex pathways evident in mammalian cells. Differences in the cell death pathway within specific tissues are addressed, as are the genes that may act to regulate progressive steps. The result is a comprehensive statement of current knowledge in this important field of modern biology, yielding new insights that will lead to future progress. *Apoptosis* is destined to become a well-thumbed source text for both researchers and advanced students.

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