

Turner, P.C., McLennan, A.G., Bates, A.D., White, M.R.JI.: **Instant Notes in Molecular Biology** Viva Books Private Limited, New Delhi 1998, xii + 307 pp. Rs 240.00. ISBN 81-85617-68-6.

The knowledge of molecular biology has increased over the past two decades and the book clearly reveals how molecular biology seeks to explain the relationships between the structure and function of biological molecules and how these relationships contribute to the operation and control of biochemical process taking place in living organisms. The authors actively participated in evolution of this field. Till to date there is no book having such compendium of present state of the science of recombinant DNA technology. The authors made a worthy attempt to write a well-planned book and deliver the core subject in a concise, easily assimilated form.

The book is divided into 19 sections from A to S containing 70 topics. Each topic consists of a 'key notes' panel with extremely concise statements of the key points covered. The first section (A) introduces the classification of cells and macro molecules and outline some of the methods used in their analysis. Section B covers basic elements of protein structure and function. Section C deals with the concept of super coiling of DNA and section D gives an account of prokaryotic and eukaryotic genomes. Areas of current interest such as recombination, DNA cloning, characterization of clones, PCR, mutagenesis of cloned genes, bacteriophages and eukaryotic viruses are discussed in the following sections laying emphasis on theory and practice of this emerging techniques. The last section (S) shows how the study of viruses combined with the knowledge accumulated from many other areas of molecular biology is helped us in understanding of the process involved in the development of a major affliction namely cancer. However, the topic of biotechnology and ethics, monoclonal antibody, interferons, *etc.* are not covered in this book.

This book is thus quite informative covering a wide spectrum of subjects and can be a reference book for the beginners, students, scholars and professionals in the field of molecular biology. The price of the book is also affordable for institutional libraries and individuals. Thus the authors have succeeded in presenting an illustrious volume of information with excellent knowledge, clean black and white figures, key notes and references.

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