Preface/Front Matter

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Excerpt

The Objective of this book, like its precursors Translational Control (1996) and Translational Control of Gene Expression (2000), is to provide a comprehensive, up-to-date, and readable survey of the translational control field. The field is broad and expanding rapidly in all directions. Yet the publishers were at pains to impress upon us the need to keep the book within reasonable bounds—a precept that was easy to accept in principle but much thornier in practice. How to resolve the quandary? We decided that the book would embrace three themes.

As unabashedly conveyed by the title Translational Control in Biology and Medicine, the first theme emphasizes the engagement of this discipline in systems and processes at the cutting edge of biomedical research. Several chapters in the book discuss the impact that has been made on longstanding problems in diverse areas. These include learning and memory, embryonic development, and human diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and obesity, and disorders due to mitochondrial dysfunction or viral infection. Numerous antibiotics and toxins are known to target the translation system, and research and development efforts are under way to discover new drugs for further therapeutic uses. In one sense, this theme represents the fruits of efforts to apply the understanding of basic scientific principles to practical matters (aptly named translational research!); in another, it reflects a natural maturation of research into the mechanism and control of protein synthesis from some of its historical roots.

The second theme explores fundamental mechanisms and processes related to protein synthesis. The third theme focuses on the control of translation by posttranscriptional signals, which affect gene expression by modulating the activities of ribosomes and factors that interact with them. These topics are covered in the remaining chapters of the book.

Front matter is the first section of a book and is generally the shortest; it is also sometimes called the prelims, or preliminary matter. It can be as simple as a single title page, or it can include multiple title pages, foreword, a preface, and much more. Preface: A preface is an introduction to the book that is written by the author. It usually covers how the publication came into being, where the idea for the book came from, etc. Front-matter pages are traditionally numbered in lower-case Roman numerals (i, ii, iii, iv, v, etc.), which prevents renumbering the remainder of a book when front-matter content is added at the last moment, such as a dedication page or additional acknowledgments. Page number is omitted on blank pages and display pages (i.e., such stand-alone pages as those for the half title, frontispiece, title page, colophon, dedication, and epigraph), and it