

- Home ▶
- About SGM ▶
- News ▶
- Who's Who ▶
- Contact Us ▶
- Membership ▶
- Meetings ▶
- Grants ▶
- Education & Careers ▶
- Links ▶
- Site Map ▶

Microbiology Today: Book Reviews:

Molecular Virology

Medical Perspectives Series

David R. Harper

BIOS Scientific Publishers Ltd (1994)

This volume entitled *Molecular Virology* continues the series in *Medical Perspectives* and presents aspects of molecular virology relevant to the understanding of the application of molecular virology to medicine in that context. Although a great deal of information is compressed into the 6 component chapters, the reader's task is made easy by the author's direct informative style in writing. The first chapter contains a distillation of essential information on viral structure, classification, replication, oncogenesis and much more. The second deals in the same concise way with the interaction of viruses with the immune system. These two set the scene for the remainder of the book which covers vaccines and immunotherapy, anti-viral drugs, cloning and gene therapy and finally, molecular diagnostics. Each of these topics, covered in a separate chapter is treated with the same efficient style of information presentation.

Although perhaps too intense for use as an undergraduate textbook, this compact little volume will certainly be useful to the informed reader whose work or interest impinges on some aspect of molecular virology; and as an introduction to the applications of molecular biology, it is excellent. My one criticism, however, is that the coverage of the immune system is too narrow. An expansion of the second chapter to include a more comprehensive view of the whole system would have been welcome. Nevertheless, the reasonable price, accuracy and clarity of the text, and its compactness should ensure the book's popularity.

Evelyn Dermott, Belfast

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Molecular Biology publishes reviews, experimental and theoretical works. Every year, the journal publishes special issues devoted to most rapidly developing branches of physical-chemical biology and to the most outstanding scientists. PEER REVIEW. Molecular Biology is a peer reviewed journal. We use a double blind peer review format. Our team of reviewers includes over 640 experts from 9 countries (Russia, USA, Germany, Great Britain, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, China, Australia). Molecular Biology Definitions. Glossary. Apps/Others. Molecular Genomics. Coronaviruses contain a positive-stranded RNA genome of approximate size between 26kb to 34 kb and contain 11 Open Reading Frames (ORFs). This genome is adhered to the capsid present inside the envelope along with N-protein.