Principles and Technical Aspects of PCR Amplification

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Foreword

This book aims to provide an introduction to: (i) the concept of PCR, (ii) PCR technologies, (iii) PCR applications and (iv) PCR quality, with particular emphasis being placed upon PCR applications and techniques relevant to the clinical laboratory. This book will without doubt be useful as a reference work pertaining to technical aspects of PCR for all bio-medical students, research technicians, medics and scientists interested in the PCR technique and it's applications *per se*.

Wherever possible, the authors have tried to provide figures, scientific publications, or references to commercially available products, in order to illustrate any particularly important concepts or comments. Indeed, all commercial PCR biotechnology companies offer information about their products on internet sites and in online technical manuals. These online resources will be invaluable for any readers requiring more detailed PCR protocols.

The authors have provided references for many PCR concepts and applications that are directly useful to the clinical laboratory audience. These references provide a starting point for a more detailed investigation into the PCR techniques and concepts mentioned. In particular, further detailed information may be acquired by (i) referring to the reference section of cited publications, and (ii) by referring to other (more recent) publications published by the cited author(s).

Great efforts have been made to include descriptions of the vast majority of PCR applications and technologies that currently exist, though the dynamic nature of the PCR field means that no book can ever be regarded as totally inclusive of all the PCR refinements that have been (and are currently being) developed.

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Finally, the authors would like to wish everyone success in their PCR-related studies!

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