Molecular Genetics and Personalized Medicine
Just under 10 years ago, the first draft of the human genome sequence was completed, officially starting the era of genomic medicine. In the decade that has followed, this knowledge has fueled revolutionary technological advances that allow medicine to be personalized to the individual patient. Genetic testing has become commonplace, and clinicians are frequently able to use knowledge of an individual’s specific genetic differences to guide their course of action. However, understanding the complexities involved in molecular genetic testing is difficult and can be intimidating.

In this volume, we have sought to simplify some of the complex issues that arise when dealing with molecular genetic testing. Topics covered include everything from a description of the basic molecular methods used to perform molecular testing to genetic counseling and presymptomatic genetic testing. Each chapter is written by an expert in their field in a manner that is accessible to individuals with very little background in genetics. In addition, the authors have tried to focus on practical patient-related issues that commonly present themselves to today’s practicing physician. While we realize that this text is by no means a comprehensive review of the field of molecular genetics, we do feel it will serve as a useful reference for physicians hoping to better understand the role of molecular medicine in clinical practice. Furthermore, we hope it will prove to be an invaluable resource for the basic scientist that wants to better understand how advances in the laboratory are being moved from the bench to the bedside.

Sincerely,

D. Hunter Best
Jeffrey J. Swensen
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