Herpes Simplex Virus Protocols
5. Molecular Diagnosis of Genetic Diseases, edited by Rob Elles, 1996
1. Antisense Therapeutics, edited by Sudhir Agrawal, 1996
Preface

*Herpes Simplex Virus Protocols* comprises a wide range of experimental protocols that should be especially useful to new workers in herpes virology. Hopefully, it will also provide information for those with experience in the field, as well as those embarking on techniques that are new to them.

Obviously the range of topics covered cannot be comprehensive, but we have tried to provide protocols dealing with those procedures that are most widely used; and we have selected expert authors accordingly. We have also tried to cover the range from the more biological in vivo maneuvers to purely molecular procedures, taking into account the topical interest in the potential use of HSV as a therapeutic tool. In this way there should be sufficient information for most procedures the average herpes virologist is likely to require—at least at this moment in time!

Since the herpesviruses are a large family, we have largely based the protocols on the virus we know best—herpes simplex virus. With this as the prototype, it should be relatively easy to extrapolate and make the necessary modifications required for application to some of the other herpesviruses, especially members of the alpha group, such as PRV and EHV. It would have been an impossible task to include chapters covering the unique aspects of each known herpesvirus.

The point of this series, *Methods in Molecular Medicine*, is to provide a reference source in which a procedure should be able to be followed from A to Z without having to refer to other literature. Much detail is therefore provided, and the pitfalls and shortcuts—which are never mentioned in papers—are addressed as fully as possible. Naturally, many of the methods are now standard and can be found in any molecular biology textbook, but the additional details required for their application to HSV have been provided where necessary.

Like most other scientific disciplines over the last 10 yr, the expansion in technology and knowledge in the herpes field has been exponential. Kits are now available for just about every procedure but, thankfully, we have not yet reached the stage where books of this type are no longer required. It is essential for young virologists to understand what they are doing at the bench, as well as why they are doing it, and this practical experience is what we hope to foster here.
Our grateful thanks go to the numerous people who have contributed to this volume either willingly or under pressure! John Subak-Sharpe introduced me to HSV in 1968. Subsequently, in 1984, Alasdair MacLean came to my lab as a graduate student. We, along with many other herpes virologists worldwide, are indebted to John.

S. Moira Brown
Alasdair R. MacLean
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